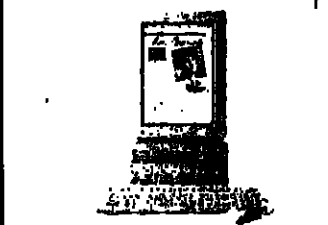


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Scalable fonts in Arabic for PC users:

Al-Alamiah opens new horizons in Arabic DTP

By Khaldoon Tabaza
Special to the Star

KUWAITI COMPANY Al-Alamiah have announced a new technology in the Arabic fonts industry, which is predicted to revolutionize Desk Top Publishing (DTP) using IBM compatibles with the Sakhr PC operating system.

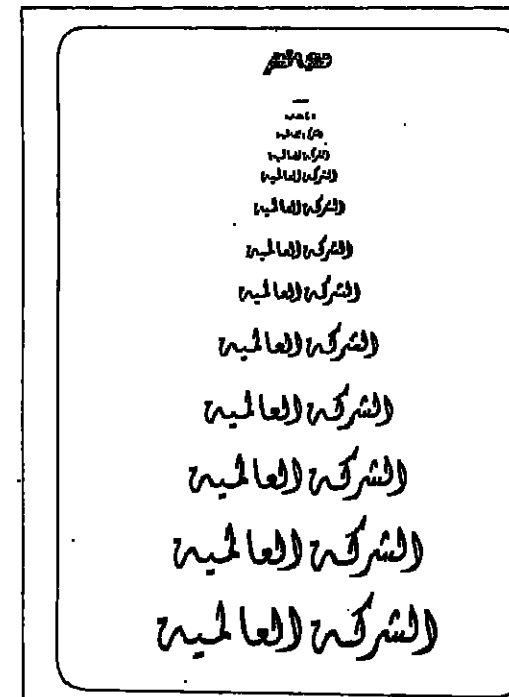
The new technology consists of digital Arabic fonts for the Sakhr PC system which are scalable, that is, the user can ask for any font size ranging from 1 to 255 points.

With the scalable fonts, the computer will only have to calculate the dimensions of the required size of the font according to stored mathematical equations, display it on the screen, or send it to the printer. In the old bit-map technology only certain sizes, whose shapes were stored in the computer memory were available to the user.

The new technology will be available for Sakhr PC users when they obtain the new version of the famous Sakhr Word Processor (SW2), which is supposed to hit the streets by the end of next February. Later in the year, users will be able to apply this new technology in the new version of Al-Alamiah Sakhr Desk-Top Publishing program (SDTP2), which is supposed to be much more advanced than the old version, according to sources at Al-Alamiah's office. The sources added that the new version will fulfill the needs of professional users of DTP in newspapers and magazines as well as office users.

In 1989, Al-Alamiah released its Sakhr PC operating System with a built-in word processor and a large collection of traditional Arabic fonts which included Naskh, Ruqa', Ijazza, Diwani, Thuluth and Farsi which are said to be fully compliant with rules of traditional Arabic calligraphy such as the overhanging and overriding of certain characters. They also have the ability to perform the techniques used by calligraphers such as Isral and Taqseer, and the use of diacritics.

Those who already own the



old versions of Sakhr Word Processor or Sakhr Desk-Top Publishing Programs will have to upgrade their versions or obtain the new versions in order to use the scalable fonts.

Since it was first launched in the Arabic market in 1984, the

Macintosh series from Apple Computers dominated the Desk-Top publishing market because of its powerful Arabic Operating System and the availability of strong DTP programs with scalable digital fonts in Arabic. However, with the introduction of various scalable fonts on Sakhr PC, and if the long-awaited SDTP2 program is strong enough to compete with

its rivals on the Macintosh, the picture of shares in the Arabic DTP market is bound to change. The new fonts from Al-Alamiah will be available on a cartridge to support HP postscript laser printers, as well as the good old dot-matrix printers.

Six-day training course for Apple employees at the Amman Plaza

ARAB BUSINESS Machines (ABM), agents for Apple Computer Inc. in the Middle East (except Egypt and Saudi Arabia), recently held a training course in cooperation with Ideal Systems, Apple's distributors in Jordan. It included several sessions of training for a group of employees from various Apple distributors from all over the Middle East.

The week-long training course, held in the Amman Plaza hotel, included training on three new Arabic products for the Macintosh: The Arabic accounting package Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali, the word-processor Arabic Nisus and the Arabized version of the data base File Maker Pro.

Training was held at various levels including specialized training for sales personnel and personnel of the support and development department. It also included seminars on how to train national users on the new programs in the various countries of the participants.

Seminars were given by Ideal Development, Ideal Systems' department responsible for the development of Al-Muhasib Al-Mithali, and the Egyptian company MegaMind, responsible for the development of the Arabic versions of both Nisus and File Maker Pro. The seminars were attended by employees from Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Qatar, Oman, UAE and Bahrain.

1999: More kids or more computers?

YOU'VE PROBABLY heard of many people who have built up such a relationship or emotional attachment with their computers that they prefer to spend their whole day in front of a monitor rather than bothering to talk to people. Now something like that would never happen to us well-balanced computer users, would it? Believe it or not, statistics say that by the year 1999 there'll be more computers in your household than children. Come to think of it, this could really cut down on the cost of putting your children through university!

A statistical study by a marketing corporation in the USA has found that an American family will be expected to own more computers by the end of the decade than it has children. Every family will own an average of 2.2 computers for personal use. According to sales figures, American consumers are buying more computers for home use than ever before. Sales of personal computers have jumped from 5.1 million units sold in 1990 to 7 million in 1991.

There's a similar computer craze on the other side of the world. Today, in Japan, almost every household has a video-games entertainment computer, a Nintendo or Sega or both, and at least one personal computer. These machines are simply a small part of the electronic gadgetry that fills Japanese homes; videos, cameras, CD players - you name it they've got it.

Such a situation is bound to fuel the computer manufacturing wars between these two nations, which makes one worry slightly about our own position in the battlefield. Are we key players, or just sitting ducks waiting to be fired at? The fact is that we, the region as a whole, are one of the biggest markets they target. We are currently undergoing a rapid computerization phase which they are competing to utilize. In future weeks, I promise to provide you with statistics about the home computer user-base in Jordan.

As has been previously mentioned in this column, there are around 280 companies working in the computer sector in Jordan. Taking a look at a typical Jordanian home and bearing in mind the economic difficulties that the country is currently going through, you can't really imagine a situation in which computers outnumber children. If they did, with the unbelievable percentage of children in our society compared to adults, we would be amongst the most computerized nations in the world!

But that's not the way it works. The number of computers in a household is only an indication of a family's wealth rather than its computer literacy. The truth is that a good computer is one you really put to good use. It's great to see our schools, colleges and universities incorporate computers into teaching and it's great to see a student sneak into a school computer lab to write a letter to a friend. A computer revolution is triggered when people decide to learn about computers and step into a library or a computer shop to do so rather than step into a house full of computer hardware and trip over a wire.

A much better way to measure computer literacy is by looking at the degree of innovation and ingenuity in the computer industry and then comparing it with figures like the ones above. That should tip the balance of the statistics to our side considering how active and large our computer market is in comparison with the number of computers in a Jordanian home.



King admitted to
hospital for minor
leg surgery

AMMAN (Star) — His Majesty King Hussein was admitted to King Hussein Medical City Wednesday where a minor leg surgery was performed on his leg, press spokesman at the King's Court announced. The King added that the King was in hospital for 24 hours. The King was undergoing a successful leg surgery, the King was interviewed by Jordan Television last evening. King Hussein said he was in good health and thanked the Jordanian people for their concern and blessings. King Hussein's personal physician, Dr. Tawfik Al-Sayid, said that a benign lump was removed from the King's leg and that the King was in excellent condition. He wished His Majesty a speedy recovery.

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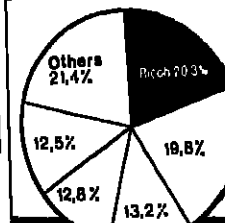
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Star

Jordan's political, economic
and cultural weekly

AMMAN, 30 JAN. — 5 FEB. 1992, VOLUME 2, NUMBER 47

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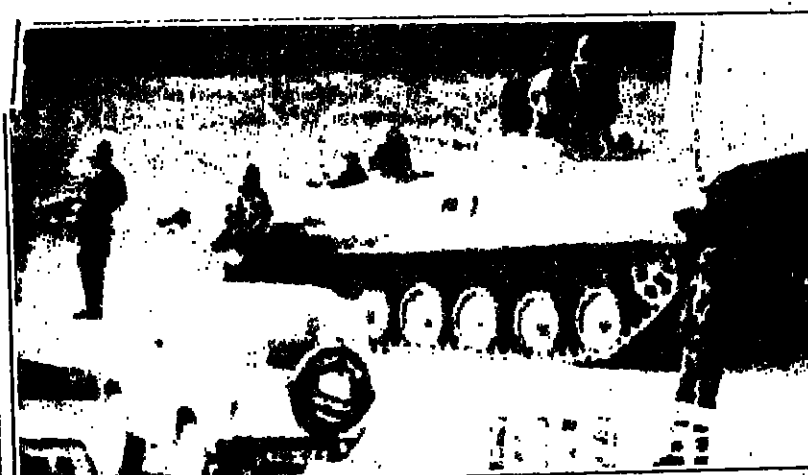


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The putsch in Algeria A secular or Islamic state?



Le Jourdain
Section française du Star

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PP(10 et 11)

NEW PAGE

JORDAN WEEK



A non-conventional look at
Jordanian affairs:

- * Case of the missing eggs
- * It's cheaper to call the US from the US!
- * Deputies who didn't show up
- * The government: Promises..promises
- * Sharif vs. Abbadi
- * Petra Bank case lingers on



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success in the years to come.

ARAB BUSINESS Machines (ABM), agents for Apple Computer Inc. in the Middle East (except Egypt and Saudi Arabia), recently held a training course in cooperation with Ideal Systems, Apple's distributors in Jordan. It included several sessions of training for a group of employees from various Apple distributors from all over the Middle East.

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Prices : Jordan: JD .250, Egypt: LE 1.00, Kuwait: KD 4.00, Saudi Arabia: SR 3.00, Qatar: QR 3.00, UAE: DR 3.00
Subscriptions:(annual) Jordan JD 12, Arab countries US\$ 75, W. Europe US\$ 150, USA & Canada US\$ 200.

The Star

FOR DANI WEEK

Minister of Industry and Trade Dr Abdullah Nsour reiterated that the government is serious about its intentions to extend additional customs and fees exemption to industrialists. The purpose of all this, he said, is to encourage the industrial sector and industrial investments.

Industrialists welcomed Dr Nsour's comments, but reminded him that similar promises are made every time the ministry has a new minister or a new government comes to power. In the end, they said, the opposite happens: "The first thing the government thinks of when it looks for additional income is to increase fees, hike taxes and customs and introduce new taxes on the industrial sector."

Local papers are again raising the issue of the "missing eggs" from the local market. One writer reminisced about the good old days when housewives did wonders with a couple of eggs, adding them to "foul mudamas" or tomato and minced meat casseroles thus creating a wholesome meal for the entire family. The writer reminded "officials" that poor people, who no longer can afford meat or chicken, depend heavily on eggs as a staple food.

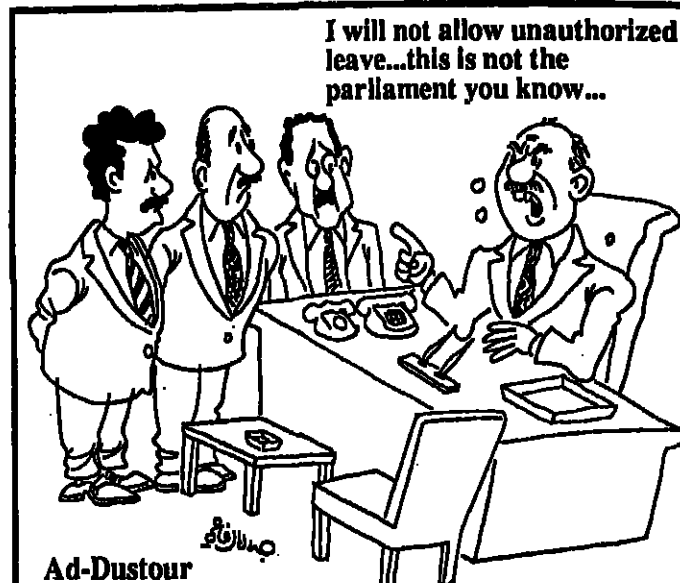
Reasons for the paucity in eggs is said to be the closure of many egg and chicken farms in Jordan because of the high rise in production cost. For example

one ton of corn, which used to sell for JD 50 is now selling for JD 106 while soya fodder, which was selling in 1988 for JD 100 per ton, is now selling for JD 203 per ton.

Minister of Agriculture Dr Faez Al Khasawneh responded later by promising citizens that the egg crisis will end "within the coming few weeks." He said the advent of Ramadan will decrease egg consumption while egg production should increase by spring. He added that Jordan's monthly production of table eggs is estimated at 55 million while consumption is put at 24 million, a surplus of 10 million eggs a month, which remain unaccounted for since there is no regulation, according to the minister, to allow egg exports from Jordan.

Local columnists have been quipping over the fact that a number of Lower House deputies were absent from the latest sessions without an official excuse. At one occasion early this month the session was postponed because the necessary quorum was not attained and the following session was delayed for hours until deputies were summoned from their homes to complete the legal quorum.

Deputies have also complained of the high rate of absenteeism in House committees. The deputies who have missed last Sunday's House session without an excuse are: Abdel Aziz Jabr, Yacoub Qarash, Leith Shbeilat, Taher Al Masri, Mansour Murad, Fawzi Tueimah, Suliman Arar, Zeib Anis, Ziad Abu Mahfouz, Foud Al Khalafat and Faisal Al Jazi.



Ad-Dustour

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The Petra Bank case is still lingering. Sources revealed that only JD 92 million have been reclaimed from the JD 207 million of the bank's loans to companies and individuals. Only \$1 million of the bank's \$3 million foreign loans have been paid back, while the bank, which is under liquidation sold JD 10 million worth of its assets so far. The main office building of the former Petra Bank on Wadi Sagna St. has now been purchased by the Cairo-Amman Bank.

Hundreds of engineers held a two-hour sit-in in front of the Ministry of Public Works on

Sunday to protest their work and appointment conditions. Minister of Public Works and Housing Mr Sa'd Hayel Surour said there was no justification for the sit-in, which was called for by the Engineers Association since his ministry has responded to most of the engineers' demands, but according to the Association over 4,000 public sector engineers are affected. The Association has also decided to hold a partial strike on Wednesday and Thursday. Basically the Association is calling for a repeal of the government's decision number 23/1988 regarding allowances and a return to the 1977 technical allowances system.

More than 25 vehicles suddenly came to a halt, while others slowed down completely, during last week in the northern town of Deir Abi Said creating a minor traffic jam. After checking under the hood it was discovered that the gasoline in these vehicles, which had all filled from the same gas station, had a high percentage of water in it. The station's gasoline tanks had water in them, it was later revealed.

Dr Al Sharif sues deputy Al Abbadi for libel

UNIVERSITY OF Jordan English literature professor Dr Nabil Al Sharif is suing Lower House deputy Ahmad Oweid Al Abbadi on charges of libel and the spreading of false information. Dr Al Sharif's lawyer, Mr Jamal Al Dmour filed the suit at an Amman court charging that deputy Al Abbadi in his speech before the Lower House session on the state budget had contained paragraphs that are libelous, malicious and false, according to a news item in Saturday's Ad-Dustour daily.

According to law, the Minister of Justice will ask the Speaker of the Lower House that the House lifts the immunity which deputy Abbadi enjoys while the House is in session. But the lifting of immunity requires a two-third majority in the House, which observers believe will set a precedent if it happens.

Deputy Abbadi accused Dr Al Sharif, without naming him in person, of receiving money from an embassy in return for publishing favorable news. But he failed to present evidence to back this allegation.

In his same speech deputy Abbadi attacked the minister's information, planning and finance and accused them of implementing the "protocols of Zion". Deputy Abbadi was criticized by his own colleagues for his libelous statements and for "personalizing" the issues.

During the same House session Prime Minister Sharif Ben Shaker indirectly criticized Abbadi's style of dialogue and dealing with the Executive Branch.

Meanwhile, sources close to Dr Sharif said that if the House refuses to lift immunity from deputy Abbadi, then he will sue him once the current House adjourns.

Meanwhile the House was scheduled to discuss on Wednesday a government request to lift immunity from deputy Yacoub Qarash who is accused of endorsing a JD 16,800 cheque without sufficient funds. The House Legal Committee has recommended that the House allows procedures to pass to try deputy Qarash.



Dr Al Sharif

An American telecommunications company has claimed it is competing with the Jordan Telecommunications Company (TCC) by undercutting TCC prices on overseas calls by 50 per cent. According to Howard Jones, president of International Discount Telecommunications Corp. of New York, said that his company takes advantage of the fact that it is less than half as much as Jordan from America as it is to call America from Jordan. Jones added that clients in Jordan wishing to call America or other country in the world "would dial a pre-assigned number in America, let the billing once, and hang up. Within seconds they are called from America and automatically conferenced into a second line from which they receive American dial tone, which they can use to make as many calls as they want at almost half of what it would cost if they were making the same call to Jordan."

The company, Mr Jones claimed, is now competing with local phone companies and the world and had forced many of them to "lower their prices." The company received media attention for its publication as the New York Times. Any comments from TCC?

Lower House Deputy Karim Al Dughmi has said it is unconstitutional to allow about 200 Jordanian taxi drivers on the Ramtha-Dira (Syria) route to travel to Syria between 8 am and 5 pm and to obtain special permit every time they need to travel to Syria. Drivers staged a sit-in in front of the Ramtha Administration Building on Monday and vowed to continue their protest until regulations are repealed.

'Peace conference is a battle of patience,' Dr Majali

By Hind-Lara Mango
Special to The Star

HEAD OF the Jordanian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Dr Abdel Al Salam Al Majali, has said that the multilateral talks which opened in Moscow on Tuesday aim at discussing economic and social issues concerning the region as a whole. He said participants, who included most Arab countries, Israel, the EC, Japan, China, Canada, in addition to the United States and the United Nations, expressed their visions about the future of the Middle East and the regional relations after the achievement of peace. The day Moscow talks will address procedural and not substantive issues at this stage. Dr Majali said that matters of substance will be discussed at a later stage and should be tied to progress in the bilateral talks.

Yemen, Lebanon, Algeria and Syria have boycotted the Moscow talks, while the Palestinians refused to attend the opening ceremony after the United States and Israel objected to the composition of the Palestinian delegation which included delegates from Jerusalem and Palestinians from the Occupied Territories.

Dr Majali said Syria and Lebanon did not attend the multilateral talks due to the short period which has elapsed between the round of bilaterals and the launching of the Moscow multi-track talks. In Dr Majali's view Syria and Lebanon "did not refuse to attend, but felt it was too early to discuss the progress of the bilaterals."

Commenting on the Israeli position, Dr Majali said that he does not feel that the elections will hinder the peace talks in any way. "Even Yitzhak Shamir's election, that the question of land is not negotiable, has not dampened hope that peace may be achieved eventually," he said.

Dr Majali reiterated Jordan's position that the greatest threat to peace negotiations are the Israeli settlements activities in the Occupied Territories. "Settlements should be frozen for the duration of the negotiations," he said.

The former minister and president of the University of Jordan said that Jordan views the United States as a serious broker in the Middle East peace talks. In the case of deadlocks, Dr Majali said it is the duty of both negotiating teams to avoid pitfalls and to remove obstacles in the way of peace. "This problem is complex and cannot be solved within four or five rounds of negotiations," he said.

On the future role of the United Nations in the peace process, Dr Majali described the absence of the international organization "as a significant participant in the peace conference" as puzzling. He added that the neutralization of the UN in the peace talks had come at a time when a "new world order" which considers the United Nations as an instrument for the implementation of international law has been declared.

Still, the head of the Jordanian team to the peace talks is optimistic. Yet he does not feel that a solution is forthcoming soon. Dr Majali concluded by saying that the peace conference is "a battle of patience."



Dr Majali

have very strong ties.

Speaking about the breakthrough in imposing the two-track approach in the Washington negotiations, Dr Majali said that giving in to the Israeli demand "would have reinforced the Zionist claim that Jordan is Palestine" and that Jordan has to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. This claim was refused by both the Palestinians and Jordanians.

Dr Majali added that the "umbrella" was provided by Jordan for the Palestinians to participate in the first round and to give them the chance to negotiate with Israel. "However, once the bilaterals commenced negotiations between the Israelis and the Palestinians, could take place directly."

Dr Majali emphasized that the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegations were appointed by different authorities. "They joined together and did not start off as one delegation as the Israelis have suggested," he said. "They (the two tracks) identified certain points for the agenda with priority given to the interpretation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which are to be used as a reference for the whole meeting."

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Commenting on Jordan's role in the peace talks, Dr Majali said that Jordan was acting in conformity with its role as a member of the United Nations. Its close relationship with Israel and the Occupied Territories has affected its position. Jordan is suffering from a lack of Israel's settlement policies in all aspects, demographically and physically. Dr Majali added, in defending Jordan's position, that the world is in a state of confusion and that the Jordanians and the world are brothers and that they

Haikal on the state of the Arabs

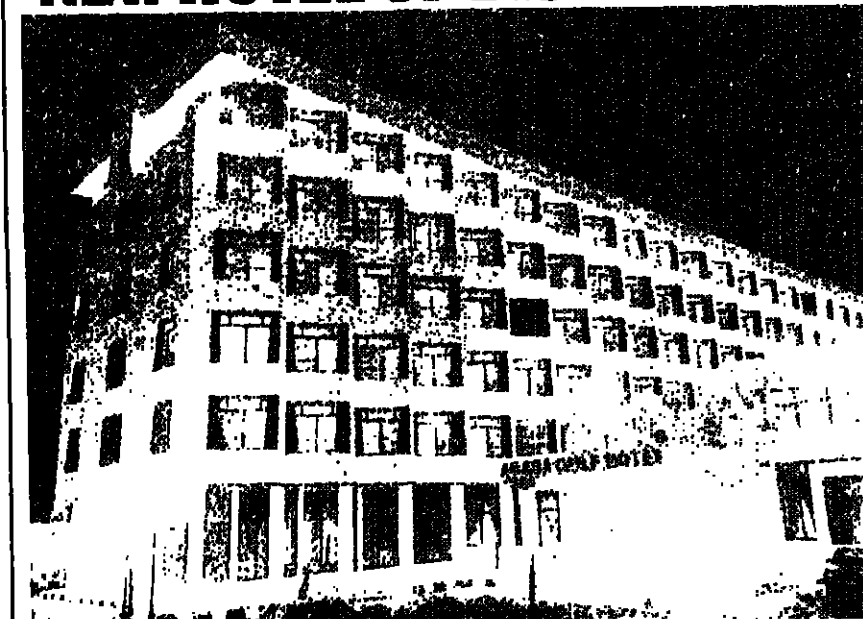
AMMAN (Star) — Egyptian thinker, writer and political analyst Mohammad Hassanin Haikal has said that the United States is seeking to create an open Arab world and that it has started its design by destroying Iraq and controlling the Gulf and that next step will be to subjugate Libya before moving on to Syria.

In a lengthy interview with the Egyptian opposition paper, Al Ahali, Haikal warned that the United States is using the Security Council to pass such designs and that the Arabs are left without arms to face Israel in Madrid, Washington and now in Moscow. He said that contrary to what many Arabs believe, Israel's importance to the United States is increasing and not decreasing. He added that today and instead of a thread of hope uniting the Arabs from the Gulf to the (Atlantic) Ocean, there is a thread leading to destruction and instability.

He predicted that the United States will succeed in imposing economic sanctions against Libya, which will negatively affect Egypt both economically and politically.

Mr Haikal said that the crisis in the Arab world began with the military defeat in the 1967 war, which dealt a shock to the pan Arab national program. This led to giving Israel and the United States the opportunity to force their own program of subjugating the region, the fruits of which we see today in isolating the Palestinians, the peace talks, the destruction of Iraq, the containment of Syria and Libya and even in Algeria.

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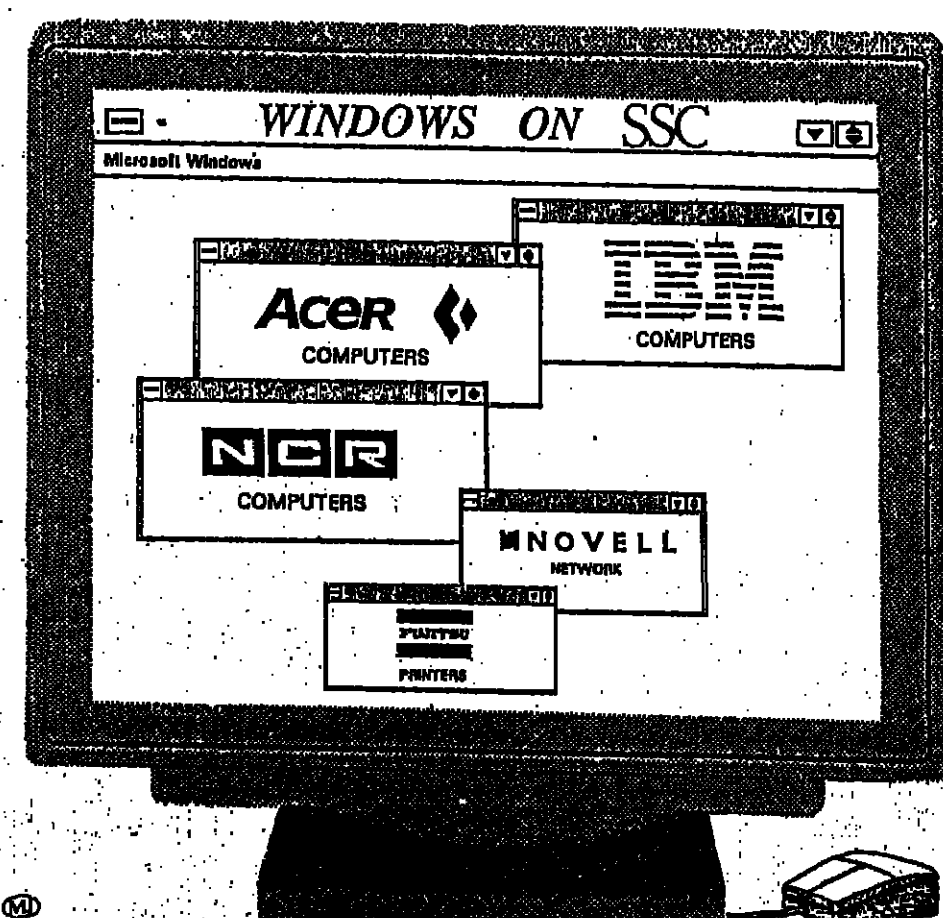


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مركز النظم

Focus on Jordanian literature
Mahmoud Shuqeir:
he agony of Palestine

■ The government is considering inviting non-Jordanian trucks to carry phosphate, ash and cement from mines in Aqaba to cope with the increasing pressure on exports from Aqaba.

Since 1962, Algeria has had one of the most rapid population explosions anywhere, growing

tion has been taught in Arabic for example, the ruling elite — and its children — remain thor

The army is "crossed by the same currents that cross Algerian society," Ammar Belhimer, an intellectual of the once ruling

New York Times


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is a collection of 46 short stories depicting a variety of themes ranging from social and political criticism, war and the desire for peace, to human individual suffering inflicted by uncontrollable circumstances of belligerence and hostility. The main theme, however, is the Palestinian plight under Israeli occupation, the shattering of dreams and the repression under which Palestinians, as individuals, live. The following story, 'Woman', is taken from this collection.

Warren searches his pockets for his cigarettes, but doesn't find them, and doesn't know where he has dropped them. He has a way to overcome her bluff: the fiancée pretends to leave. He follows her to the kitchen to find her waiting for him. He tells her he is not going, but he trusts on her to wait for another time. She turns towards the door, and he follows her. She tells him she has prepared a surprise for him, but it is a party. Slightly annoyed, she says, "You're a coyness, she will put on these."




Yet, she insists that the end will come, otherwise she can never experience peace of mind. Before she closes the wardrobe of dresses and clothes, he suddenly pulls her to him, and the embrace

Marwon returns home before evening falls. Ecstatically he recalls every moment he spent with his beloved fiancée, and every word he told her about the wedding party which is to take place in a fortnight's time. Marwan approaches the house at the end of the lane, in the avenue which is full of soldiers. Just before his hand touches the handle of the door, Marwon falls dead. A bullet, shot by one of the soldiers entrenched at the end of the lane, penetrates his chest. But he does not die — until the picture of his wedding is flung down in his mind.

In almost every story in the collection, we sense the presence of the Intifada, the violence which the soldiers deal with unarmed population, and the ghost of death hovering over their heads, destroying the happy dreams and the budding aspirations of the youth.

The narrative technique in collection shifts from the omniscient narrator with strict chronological order of events, flashback technique, to the stream-of-consciousness technique. But whichever Shusterman employs, the power of his narration holds strongly and arouses one's curiosity to follow up, discover, and to reveal.

He goes out in the early morning to the dewy street which knows no silence. A while ago the world woke up from its slumber. Millions of men drink delicious coffee on their balconies and there's a man on the 20th storey balcony of his apartment coughing. He puts out his cigarette and says, "Tomorrow mor-



ing, I will give up smoking." The woman whose cigarette is dyed by lipstick laughs, raises her jaw over the bannister of the balcony of storey number 20, and man, without words, understands the meaning.

He goes out in the dewy morning, after he has had a hot bath. Millions of people bathe at the same time, while they are sitting, and women fry potatoes in their kitchens and put out glasses on the table. And there's a woman in house, crying bitterly, having discovered that her cruel lover has been infatuated with another one for three children.

He goes out in the dewy morning to the street which is full of demonstrations. At the same time, millions of men and women go to their intensive work. Nato officers read secret reports dispatched to them urgently from the neighboring continents. A tyrant reviews the latest information about the activities of the resistance parties. And there's a man, holding the receiver of a telephone, consulting a friend, a spinster, about the right word for the crossword puzzle in the morning newspaper.

He goes out in the dewy morning after his mother has started the morning newspaper.

a kiss on his forehead, takes a glimpse of the trees, the houses, the people, and the hair of the girls hanging down on their shoulders, and he is surprised, as though he sees everything in this life for the first time. Then he approaches the confrontation lines, where the oppressive soldiers know nothing apart from the language of murder, and the assassination of the lovely dreams of hearts.

He goes out on that dewy morning, that Palestinian youth, who is known to none in this world: departs, never returns.

Shuqri's depiction of characters in this collection does not follow conventions; Forster's terms of "flat" and "round" characters are not applicable in this context. They are sketches of people who may or may not exist, but they have a more symbolic nature, featuring certain aspects of the human tragedy. Even when given names, events show them to be of a more philosophical nature that transcend the particular to the more general in scope.

The plot is generally simple in all the stories of this collection and in many cases could be

two. Nevertheless, they offer profound insight into the human nature, human suffering and understanding. One always misses a great deal if one is satisfied with a plot summary of Shuqri's stories. We'll take a last example, with the story, "A Stab".

In a city where women are so many, Martha lonely for a friend. Unintentionally, I ask her about the song of The Three Roses. As if I thought I had fallen in love with the girl who worked there when I was there once with a friend and since I don't know the place: very well, I cannot place that café lies.

Martha takes me by the hand and I suggest going somewhere else, explaining that it would be more suitable to know a better place. My real intention, however, was to spend some time with Martha, who immediately understands me. And her eyes reveal her inner desires.

We go to a bar near the building of the old museum, and Martha asks me to enter first. I say this is the convention of the country, as there may be trouble-makers, and under circumstances a man would

 **The S**

announces the start of Spanish courses for 1992. Registration for courses starts Feb. 1, 1992. Classes on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., 7 days from Feb. 1 to Feb. 7. For more information, contact: **Cultural Centre, Mohammed Hafez**

ter before a woman to give her protection and safety. Knightly convention fascinates me, and I say to myself, "Martha, who is as tender as a bird, deserves every attention."

All of a sudden, as we are drinking our cups, I discover that Martha hates the public sector, and she says that the age of kings was more appealing. I had discovered that, apparently without any cause, Martha hates people. One day, she introduces me to one of her friends, and as expressed my admiration for that girl, Martha whispered to me that her friend suffers from a chronic disease. In addition, she is not good at making love, as her menstruation is irregular and blood flows from below her stomach always incessantly.

Martha does not like the public sector, and listens to everything hostile that radio stations transmit; and she is provoked by the errors of the leadership which should not be criticized. And Martha says she is making plans to migrate to Uncle Sam's country. She is astonished at no support for the public sector and she says, half-jestingly, half-seriously, that she has called the wrong address by making no acquaintance. For, as Martha claims, I am from a people that launches war against Israel, it peace-seeking country.

Martha is not good at listening to others, does not pay heed to arguments, nor allows the right of speech.

Martha who is like a big
Martha, whose poisonous
thoughts aroused my concern;
her, Martha whom I tried all
time to dissuade from hating
people, Martha, before whom
had entered the bar to give sa-
ty, stabbed me in the back with
dagger she had in her hand
and rapidly escaped from
place.

Roses for the Prophet's Blood is a work of extraordinary style and art. Reading the whole collection may guide one to the source which inspired its author to give it its title. It portrays Man's suffering by war, oppression, manipulation of force, authority, and egoism. The collection reveals how fragile weak man is, and how susceptible he lies when disarmed of moral and spiritual values. On the other hand, it shows how individuals can stand the pressure of hardship when armed with spiritual and ethical values, the face of tyranny and repression. Its contents correspond to the central idea of Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*; that "Man could be destroyed, but not defeated."

Fahd A. Salameh is a prod at Radio Jordan. He has MA in English Literature the University of Jordan.



The Spanish Cultural Centre in Amman

announces the start of registration for its extensive Spanish courses for beginners.
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By Kate Daniels
Star Staff Writer

Jordan's first antiques show meets with staggering success

AS JORDAN'S art and antique buffs descended upon the Amman InterContinental Hotel last Friday, there were optimistic signs that the nation's post-war economic prudence may be on the wane.

Advertised proudly as Jordan's first ever public antiques auction, the event drew in unexpectedly enthusiastic crowds, as affluent couples, curious onlookers, diplomats and hotel residents squashed eagerly into the ballroom, waiting for the bidding to begin.

The volume of the public's response to the auction surprised everyone, not to mention its apprehensive organizers. Mr. Abu Dhais, auction supervisor and proprietor of the Islamic and Arabic Heritage House in Jebel Luweibdeh, said the turn-out to the auction was excellent, and was somewhere in the region of 700 people, when only 200 had been expected.

The auction took a month and a half to organize and was a collaborative effort between the Arabic and Islamic Heritage House and The House of Antiques in Abdoun. Two Iraqi antiques experts, Dr. Taleb Al Baghdadi and Mr. Muhammad Al Baghdadi, who own their own successful antiques business in the Iraqi capital, also cooperated on the Jordanian side.

Having gathered a substantial stock from dealings with Jordanian collectors, the two antique

houses laid on an Aladdin's cave of items for their program, such as rare old furniture, porcelain and glassware, old silver works, a selection of paintings and rare manuscripts, exquisite oriental carpets and traditional jewelry.

Bidding got off to a brisk start with the paintings category, as Jordanian art collectors snapped up a number of nineteenth-century oils and orientalist lithographs. Excitement mounted early on, with a long and heated succession of bids for a marble-mounted statue of a man astride his charger. The price was going sky-high, until the triumphant bidder finally claimed her prize for JD 2,400.

Religious texts and artefacts were in abundance, with a broad selection of wooden-mounted icons up for sale, most of them Russian in origin and ranging from between 40 to 200 years old. There were also a number of splendid Quran manuscripts of varying beauty that positively dazzled the audience with their intricately ornamented text and glorious gold leaf embellishments.

Other more unusual items included a number of local heritage artefacts that met with a disappointingly lukewarm response. There was a definite



Some of the items on exhibit

slowing in the bartering stakes for old samples of Palestinian currency, bank cheques and maps of the Holy Land, one even dating back to as early as 1686.

Supervisor Mr. Abu Dhais said he was disappointed to see that nobody had bought the currency. "It was not appreciated at all," he said. "There was a £50 Palestinian bank note there that was one of only four left in the world. This piece was sold in Geneva to a collector in Jordan for JD 9,200 and we didn't even sell it."

He also mentioned his surprise that a particularly exquisite, leather-bound Kashmiri Quran, worth some JD 9,000 had not

been sold.

He said, however, that the more affordable porcelain and glassware had sold well, and that only one or two items out of 180 had gone unsold. The porcelain selection revealed some collectable names such as a Meissen ornamental bird, a Royal Crown Derby fruit plate and a handsome Wedgwood soup tureen.

Sales from the silver collection were swift and consistent, with solid Russian samovars, Caucasian bells, daggers and cutlery up for bidding. A silver Ottoman *nargileh* fetched a princely sum of JD 1000, while a silver Ottoman inkpot and a charming Asfahan mirror were considerably cheaper.

The last two categories of the auction's program included carpets and antique furniture. "The carpets, which were all over 60 years old, sold well at between JD 400 to 1,500," said Mr. Abu Dhais, "however the heavy furniture didn't sell as well."

Show-stoppers of the event included a large embroidered section of the cover of the Ka'ba, a piece with enormous religious value and a hammer price of JD 5,200; an enormous gilded vase with a twin peacock and floral design that weighed in at four and a quarter kilos of solid sil-

ver; a first edition (1876) copy of the Egyptian daily paper *Al-Ahram* (purchased for a mere snip at JD 320 by Mr. Mamdouh Bisharat), and a "Fabergé style" egg that looked deceptively genuine — especially with a price tag of JD 1,725.

Mr. Abu Dhais could not help but be delighted about the outcome of the auction, especially when he revealed that more than 85 percent of the items had been sold. "I think this is a record," he said, "even for international auctions." He was reluctant, nonetheless, to divulge the total amount that the auction had grossed, preferring to refer to it as a "professional secret" and adding that it was a pleasant surprise to him that the auction had not run at a loss.

The undeniable success of the project has meant that the time is ripe for the auction's organizers to plan a follow-up for the spring season. Mr. Abu Dhais is confident that the event has sparked off a new interest in the community, and said that, "We are now seeing the start of a whole new scene in Jordan. Our show has proven to the country's new collectors that antiques are not only attractive but are also an excellent investment."

Khazem Merchant

FISHERMAN are cast their eyes — and nets — a further afield these days. They are venturing into the territorial shelf, beyond the continental shelf, in search of inshore waters off the coast where for decades fishermen have practised their trade.

The concentration of activity in inshore waters has led to huge catches, notably of high-value fish such as kingfish, tuna and mackerel.

Official concern at the over-exploitation of the resource prompted a joint venture by Oman and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization of the country's 200-mile territorial zone. The report will be the basis of determining the catch in Omani waters.

Mr. Thabit Zahran Al Abdul Wahab, director of the Marine Resources and Fisheries Centre, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, said that the project has meant that the time is ripe for the auction's organizers to plan a follow-up for the spring season. Mr. Abu Dhais is confident that the event has sparked off a new interest in the community, and said that, "We are now seeing the start of a whole new scene in Jordan. Our show has proven to the country's new collectors that antiques are not only attractive but are also an excellent investment."

Oman wants its fishermen to cast their nets wider

ment, necessary for longer journeys. Also, lobsters and abalone, among the more sedentary fish in inshore waters, were easy targets for fishermen reluctant to change the ways of a lifetime.

Nevertheless, the government has over the past two decades tried to change age-old ways. It has offered generous incentives and loans for the purchase of high-quality fiberglass boats; distribution and marketing of fish has been improved; and several 200-ton government-funded cold storage centers have been set up, some recently sold to the private sector in a bid to make it play a more active role in the industry.

Leading the way is Oman Fishing Co. (in which the government has a quarter share), which was formed in 1989 with subscribed capital of OR12.5 million.

Better boats and more developed on-shore infrastructure have, however, only served to highlight the problem of over-fishing.

Apart from periodic exhortations, the government's immediate response has been to introduce permits for fishermen (initially being enforced only for larger companies) and to reduce the fishing season. For lobsters, the season has been reduced



Omani fishermen: Casting their nets wider

from six months to two (December and January). Quotas have been imposed on industrial vessels.

Hardly surprisingly, these measures have proved unpopular with many of the country's estimated 18,500 self-employed fishermen whose efforts help to make fish Oman's biggest non-oil export. Many protested and indeed won concessions from the ministry; initially the authorities had proposed a total ban on

lobster fishing.

"For decades the industry has been unregulated. But the time has come to limit entry," says Mr. Abdul Salam. "Our measures do affect their livelihood but we have to take the long term view," he insists.

The long term view — outlined in the current five-year plan includes an ambitious program to build eight small, self-contained harbors (at Al Jazar in the south and Shinas in the

north-east, for instance). These will mainly service small fishermen who last year accounted for some 85 per cent of the total haul of 119,000 tons, earning revenues of some QR17.8 million. The rest was caught by industrial vessels. Some 20 per cent of the total catch was exported to neighboring states and also Japan.

Large-scale port development is also planned at Sur and Qurayyat in the north-east, enabling them to accommodate industrial vessels and ease pressure on Mina Qaboos. Industrial vessels — including some from Japan with which the authorities have signed fishing concessions — caught some 10 per cent of the total haul in 1990.

All the ports will boast enhanced processing and cold storage facilities. The work is expected to be finished by 1994, completing the transformation of an industry which was once as conspicuous for its foul smells as for its delicious catches. Southern fishermen's haul of sardines — later sold as fertilizer — would be left to dry on the southern beaches. The fumes were a reminder when the boats were in.

Today, though there is some concern among traditional fishermen who fear for their livelihood, it is the general air of optimism that is more striking. For most fishermen realize that their government is making a huge investment in an industry whose importance will grow given Oman's very limited oil reserves.

The Popular Theater:

A new home is established for experimental arts

By Vesna Masharqa
Special To The Star

THE ADVENT of democracy in Jordan has triggered the establishment of many new cultural movements and projects. The Popular Theater, also known as "The Theater of Sixty Chairs" is one of these outstanding new enterprises. It is an assembly of 15 theater artists attempting to establish a daily experimental theater, aimed at exploring and intro-



ducing various theater forms, different ideas and expressions.

Jordanian theater director Fathi Abdul Rahman, who also directs at The Popular Theater, said that the enterprise consists of several projects including daily theater, children's theater with a puppet workshop, a studio for recording music and sound effects and an editorial room for their magazine "Al Masrah", which will specialize in theater studies and research. Another

part of the project will be sponsoring courses for theater artists aimed at developing their professional skills and organizing visits by theater troupes from non-Arab

countries.

"The purpose of hosting visits by other theater groups from outside the Kingdom is to exchange professional experiences with our guests, and also to expose the Jordanian audience to various theatrical expressions," said Abdul Rahman.

He also talked about the meaning of "The Popular Theater" and misinterpretations of its name. "The name doesn't allude to the tendency of theater for the masses, theater is always for the people," he said. "What we are referring to here is our ambition to reach the audience through creative and artistic means, in a style which can direct them towards a certain idea. We want to be felt and understood by our audience, and this is the essence of The Popular Theater."

Abdul Rahman stressed that he believes in simplicity of theatrical expression and that only



New recruits at The Popular Theater

creative artists are capable of transforming complicated concepts into simple, understandable forms without the disintegration of the main idea.

"Considering the fact that there is no new theater culture in Jordan and that the local theater audience is only just establishing the habit of theater going, I believe that we should stick to the principle of simplicity," he said. "Our main focus will be on an actor and his creative potential. Our actor will be the main pillar of a show."

Abdul Rahman said that his theater will be looking forward to productions with a limited number of actors and simple technical demands: "I appreciate sophisticated theater equipment as long as it supports an actor in his role and his movement on the stage," he said.

As a director, he expressed hope that he will always have the opportunity to widely inter-

act and cooperate with actors so as to unify their creative ideas and put them into use.

As far as The Popular Theater's program for this year is concerned, the theater will play host to four groups from different Arab countries and it will put on five productions of its own, the first one appearing in two weeks. They will also participate in three up-and-coming festivals: The Youth Theater Festival, The Children's Theater Festival and The Second Jordanian Theater Festival. They will also publish four issues of their "Al Masrah" magazine.

Abdul Rahman expressed great satisfaction with his courageous decision to establish the theater. He even goes so far as to call it the greatest achievement of his life, saying: "I know that it will take at least a year until the theater becomes a regular, cultural need for our audience. We must be patient, and I believe it will be worth it."

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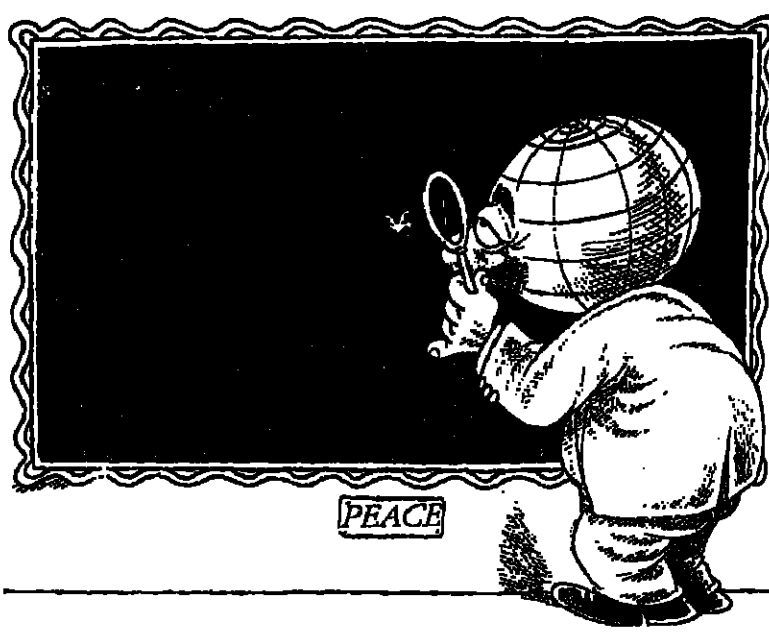
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Our Say....

Giving in to Israel

THE MOSCOW talks kicked off this week in the absence of key regional players including the Palestinians, Syria and Lebanon. While Syria and Lebanon had made their points of view clear before the start of the talks, the Palestinians who actually made it to Moscow failed to take their seats at the conference table because Israel and the United States objected to the composition of the Palestinian delegation. As a result, the Palestinians did not participate in the working groups on the second day of the Moscow talks and their participation in future meetings remains tied to solving the representation issue.

In spite of these set-backs, one could say that the launching of the so-called multilateral talks in the Russian capital, is a positive development in securing the future of the Middle East. Once the working groups begin to discuss the problems of disarmament, refugees, water and economic development, one expects to see serious commitment by the parties involved to the security, prosperity and stability of the region. But this is all in the future.

It will be foolish to give the multilateral talks much credit at this stage when little if any progress has been made on the bilateral talks. In fact, the multilateral talks could be used by some — mainly the Israelis — as a stepping stone over the substantive issues that feature on the agenda of the bilateral negotiations.

For the Palestinians, and indeed for all Arabs, as was indicated in the speeches of the Arab foreign ministers who attended the Moscow opening, the central issue remained to be that of Israel's refusal to implement UN resolutions regardless of the talks, be they bilateral or multilateral.

The current Israeli leadership may notice the underlined statements of Arab and non-Arab delegates to the multilaterals, but it still refuses to respond to them except in the form of intensifying Israel's settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories in an attempt to annihilate the Arab identity of these territories.

It is therefore ironic that when the world meets in Moscow to talk about the future of the Middle East after peace, the Israelis come out to emphasize their absolute right to Arab lands.

The question to ask is how long should this farce be allowed to go on? If the world allows Israel to continue its policy of Judaizing Palestinian and Arab land in the hope of creating new realities on the ground, then the Palestinians may indeed come out of this whole affair empty handed.

The Americans try to calm our fears by talking about long negotiations and possible compromises. But at this phase of negotiations it does not look like the substantial issues are getting anywhere. Actually, the Israeli leadership is using the peace negotiations as a pretext to stay in power while putting the settlement scheme into top gear.

Let us face it. The Palestinians have genuine fears of the outcome of this process, just as they have the right to their own representatives at the bilateral and multilateral talks. Denying the Palestinians these humble, but still undeniable doubts and rights merely to appease the Israelis lest they withdraw from the talks is a step backwards. The Palestinian issue deserves to be taken seriously in both form and it does not help the cause of peace to affront the Palestinians, while looking the other way when Israel continues to violate the very sanctity of international law. ■

The Samsom Option: Israel's nuclear option and American foreign policy

By Seymour M. Hersh, Random House, New York, 1991. 354 pp. Reviewed by Andrew I. Kilgore

"And Samson took hold of the two pillars upon which the temple stood... And (it) fell... So the dead which he slew at his death were more than they which he slew in his life." — Book of Judges 16:29 and 30

THE BOOK of Judges says the Philistines blinded Samson and made sport of him in Gaza. In revenge, he pulled down their temple, killing perhaps 3,000 Philistines, while taking his own life. This is a story of Jewish heroism, of hitting back at persecutors.

The 5th century BC Samson epic inspired the title and provided the theme of Seymour M. Hersh's *The Samsom Option*, describing Israel's secret development of nuclear weapons to enable Israel, like Samson, to devastate its enemies. Hersh, probably the best investigative reporter writing in English today, also invokes Masada, a serene mountain top above the Dead Sea where, in 73 AD, 1,000 Jewish defenders held off 15,000 besieging Romans for two years before committing suicide to avoid capture. Myriads of Israelis today make pilgrimages to Masada to pay homage to the heroism of its defenders.

Samson and Masada symbolize Jewish steadfastness in the face of overwhelming odds in ancient times. The searing horror of this century's Jewish Holocaust, however, lies unassuaged in the Israeli psyche. The power and ruthlessness of the Nazi juggernaut had been too overwhelming to resist.

Israel's granitic determination to develop the atomic bomb can perhaps best be understood as a delayed Jewish response to that Nazi nightmare. Sadly, however, this "never again" came half a century too late to save the millions who perished in the slave labor and death camps of Europe.

The Samsom Option opens at the White House in September 1981. Three months earlier, Israel had bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor at Osirak near Baghdad. Israel already had the bomb, although the US government had taken no official cognizance of that fact. Present at the White House meeting was then-Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon. His purpose was to denounce the US as an "unreliable" ally for refusing to build a "downlink" in Israel to receive newly developed US satellite imagery. The downlink would have enabled Israel, but not the United States, to "see" both the Arab states and routes to, and inside, the southern part of the Soviet Union.

American participants at the meeting, including newly-elected President Ronald Reagan, assumed at the time that Israel sought only to be in a position to protect itself from attack by its Arab neighbours. Israel, however, already was a nuclear power, and, according to Hersh, it was seeking to target the Soviet Union with its nuclear warheads.

That Israel has nuclear weapons has long been known. What Hersh describes in *The Samsom Option* is how Israel developed the weapons (more or less) secretly, and how bitter was the opposition to the program within Israel. Thanks to his extensive research, Hersh is able to document that Israel's internal opposition to going nuclear was soundly based both on economic and on ideological grounds.



Hersh illustrates how basic US foreign policy objectives were twisted out of shape wherever Israel and its nuclear weapons program were concerned. The powerful interplay between domestic US politics and American foreign policy was all-compelling.

So technically authoritative is Hersh that his book might well be taken for the work of a nuclear physicist with naming gifts. Hersh is not a scientist, but he is out to study all that is known about nuclear weapons and how they are made. This is characteristic of his relentless "digging," which produced such earlier works as *The Price of Power*, an entertaining as well as an authoritative dissection of Henry Kissinger's deceitful diplomacy and masterful media manipulation.

Several of Hersh's 22 chapters, all interconnected to the basic theme, will fascinate Americans who follow Middle East developments closely. Chapter 12, about the late long-time (1961-1973) US ambassador to Israel, Walworth Barbour, is a good example. American ambassadors generally serve in Tel Aviv for extraordinarily long periods and, with one or two exceptions, they are noteworthy for adopting, or already holding, views that vary little from those of Israeli government officials. So overboard was Barbour that he forbade his staff to report on Israel's nuclear "development town" of Dimona in the Negev desert.

During the October 1973 Arab-Israeli war, coordinated Egyptian and Syrian surprise attacks to redeem their Israeli-occupied territories inflicted heavy casualties on Israel. Author Hersh is persuaded that Secretary of State Kissinger launched the gigantic military air bridge out of fear that if the US did not come to its rescue, Israel would use its nuclear weapons against Arab cities. It probably will neither surprise nor offend the author, however, to suggest that other Kissinger watchers may believe that the secretary was motivated by intense personal sentiments as he labored in Richard Nixon's name, but apparently without the president's full knowledge, to turn Israel's setback into a military victory.

One of Seymour Hersh's most dramatic charges is that Israel's best-known American spy, Jonathan Jay Pollard, was given

Continued on page 10

The unknown history of China-Israel relations



Israeli Foreign Minister Levy in Beijing this week

The transaction enabled China at the same time to conclude a much larger sale to Iraq of T-59 and T-69 tanks during its war against Iran, thus demonstrating its special stand which included support for the Arabs, the PLO and the Palestinians at the same time as endorsing the Camp David Accords.

Thus was created the "co-existence" of the confidential Sino-Israeli partnership with public denunciation of Israeli policy. The two conflicting postures are morgan in this week's establishment of formal relations, and thus the circle is closed which was opened in January 1950 when then Israeli foreign minister Moshe Sharett informed Chinese premier Chou En-lai three months after the founding of the People's Republic that Israel recognized it.

Israel's ambassador Elihu Elath cabled from Washington that this hasty recognition of Communist China would arouse negative reactions in friendly circles in the US, whose support for Israel was essential on the issues of Jerusalem and arms supplies. But Israel's Foreign Ministry director-general Walter Eytan replied that the cable had come too late.

On June 20, 1950, China approached Israel for an early reply on whether it intended to establish an embassy in Beijing, but while Israel delayed its response the Korean War erupted, which upset the plan; it transpired that Ben-Gurion was ready to send an Israeli battalion to fight under the UN flag.

After the war, the Chinese renewed their efforts to break the diplomatic boycott against them; their envoy in Rangoon spoke about this with then Israeli ambassador David Hacohen, and with Israeli diplomats in other countries. Hacohen had political influence in Israel and after speaking with Chou in Rangoon started urging Sharett to take an initiative.

However, already on May 25, 1955, the Ministerial Defence Committee of Israel decided not to rush into establishing an embassy in Beijing until the situation was clarified at the Geneva Conference on Indo-China. Hacohen appealed: Eytan supported him, saying to Sharett:

"Israel's standing in the US is anyway being weakened, one reason being the American belief that we are in any case in their pocket. An act displaying independence, such as relations with China, could show the Americans we are not so deeply in their pocket... and accordingly would strengthen our standing in the US."

Warnings continued to arrive from Washington and the "compromise" was for an Israeli delegation to Beijing headed by Hacohen which, however, never met by Chinese officials, which subsequently set off 240 joint sessions with foreign corporations in China.

THE PEOPLE'S Republic of China and Israel signed on Friday an agreement establishing diplomatic relations. The agreement was signed in Beijing between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Chinese counterpart Qian Qiliang. Here is a brief background of relations between the two countries:

When the Sino-Indian border hostilities broke out in 1962, India bought mortars in China. During the Sino-Soviet border tensions in 1979-80, China bought tank guns from Israel.

Last Friday, in Beijing, at the ceremony signing of the agreement to establish diplomatic relations between China and Israel, the Chinese hosts did not mention to the Israeli foreign minister the episode of the sale of mortars to India.

The Chinese do not customarily recall past events. But in 1962, when the German defense minister, Franz-Josef Strauss, raised the notion of relations with Israel in a conversation with Mao Tse-tung, the aged Chinese leader said: "How can we do this when they get arms from America and soldiers from Russia?"

The Chinese leader was indicating his anger at the sale of Israeli weapons to India whom his army was fighting then.

Five years earlier Mao had spoken in a different tone about Israel. Speaking with David Ben-Gurion, the secretary-general of the Israeli Communist Party, he had showed familiarity with Jewish history and claimed the Babylonian exiles had fled to China!

Then Israeli Premier David Ben-Gurion had actually requested that the sale of arms from Siam to India be made public, and that the guns be freighted from the port of Ellat on a vessel flying the Israeli flag. Indian premier Nehru, however, demanded total secrecy. This was complied with, though Israeli vessels carried the cargo.

However, Pakistani spies in the Indian Defence Ministry came upon the documents on the deal and on January 14, 1963, the Pakistani paper *Dawn* wrote that an Indian officer, Col. M.M. Sindhu, had been dispatched to Haifa to check certain military equipment.

Two years later, two Faiah leaders, Yasir Arafat and Abu Jihad, landed in Beijing requesting China's aid in launching their war against Israel. The Chinese refused from mentioning this to the Israeli delegation which flew directly to China in July 1960, carrying diplomatic passports and headed by Brig. Gen. Yussif Ma'ayan, then director-general of the Defence Ministry. Like the Indians, the Chinese wanted the contact to remain secret, but it was leaked in Washington while the delegation was still in Beijing, when *Newsweek* published an item on it. The Chinese ignored the leak and both sides agreed to keep the story. This coordinated denial enabled the Chinese to host, the following month, a high-level PLO delegation which came to buy anti-aircraft missiles, a charge they turned down.

During the Israeli visit, the delegation had to make do with a meeting with the Israeli premier (unlike the PLO group which was received by the premier). But the next 11 years of Israeli activity in the field, when ramified relationships were forged, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan met with the Chinese leader in the peaktime phase before diplomatic ties.

The Israelis learned from their 1980 conversations with the Chinese that they needed a sharing of interests in their common Soviet weapons on their borders and the displacement of Soviet weapons to the Syrian border with Israel. This was reinforced in the talks on contacts between the two countries.

While the heads of the delegations spoke of contacts and general assessments, Chinese delegation members learned from their Israeli counterparts the need for improving modern tanks. The deal was wide-ranging: its application was assigned to a private firm, and the technology, which subsequently set off 240 joint sessions with foreign corporations in China.

A letter to the producers of CBS's 60 Minutes

Mr Steve Croft
60 Minutes
524 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr Croft:

IN YOUR 60 Minutes piece, "Hussein & Hussein", it is unrealistic to believe that any country, including the US, is free of people who profit from the misfortunes of others. However, it is equally unrealistic, not to mention unfair, to categorically condemn an entire country, its people, and its King based on allegations that are clearly self-serving propaganda, and presented to a wide audience as fact.

No one will argue the point that during the Gulf War Kuwait was looted by some, but, it is wrong to leave the impression that "chances are" a "luxury car" in Jordan, with a black license plate, was stolen from Kuwait.

First of all, as a result of the Gulf War, the black license plates were issued to returning citizens on a temporary basis until they decided to either remain in Jordan or return to the countries they came from. If they remain in Jordan, they are required to pay duty on their cars and obtain standard plates. And, your assertion that a Mercedes is a "luxury car" in Jordan is erroneous. It is no more than an everyday taxi or family car by Jordanian standards, and is, in fact, equivalent to a Ford or Chevrolet for most people in this country.

Another misconception, that unfortunately remains a matter of interpretation, and one that the media continues to support, is that King Hussein sided with and condoned Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait. The truth of what really perpetuates this idea, and aggravates the narrow minded mentality of some so called American patriots in this country, is the

Continued on page 13

The Samsom Option

Continued from page 8

ing US military secrets as early as 1981. A main goal of Pollard's Israeli handlers, according to Hersh, was to obtain nuclear targeting data for Israel's own use against the Soviet Union. Hersh also alleges that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir personally provided to the Soviet Union many of the US secrets stolen by Pollard in exchange for a speedup in permits for Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel. Hersh also charges that the late British publisher Sir Robert Maxwell betrayed to Mossad, the Israeli secret intelligence service, Mordecai Vanunu, the Israeli technician who took interior photos of the secret nuclear installation at Dimona and revealed them in the West.

In a remarkable series of events that accompanied publication of the Hersh book, Maxwell announced he would sue Hersh and any member of the British Parliament who repeated Hersh's charges outside of Parliament. Even before he could file charges, however, Maxwell died before or after a mysterious pre-dawn fall off the deck of his yacht in the seas off the Canary Islands.

Just as the suspicions raised by Hersh's charge about Sir Robert may never be dispelled fully, the truth and the motive for Israel's targeting of the Soviet Union with nuclear weapons remains elusive.

For the Israeli mouse to target the Soviet bear seems to involve a heretofore unimaginable level of chutzpah. But Hersh's reputation for investigative competence and accuracy forces the reader to treat his allegations with respect. Behind his easy writing style lie levels of interpretation that challenge the uninformed

reader's assumptions about Israeli policies, and the most sophisticated reader's speculations about Israeli motives. This book will be a revelation to readers at both levels, and at all points between them.

A basic question demanding re-examination is whether Israel made the right decision in deciding to go nuclear. The Samsom Option does not get into this area, but the thoughtful reader must inevitably wonder whether the greatest dangers facing Israel are external or internal. Nuclear weapons avail nothing against the Palestinian intifada that has so weakened Israel's standing in the world, dealing the Likud expansionists a potentially fatal blow in the critically important arena of American public opinion.

The damn-the-expense approach to Israel's development of the bomb also starved investment in Israel's industrial development. The result is an economy far too weak to provide jobs for further Jewish immigrants, without first making impossibly high financial demands of the United States.

Israel's obsession with security, not through accommodation with its neighbors but with the bludgeon of nuclear weapons, may prove to be the precipice over which its leaders take their followers, or the force that brings down the temple upon them all. ■

Ambassador Andrew I. Kilgore, a retired career foreign service officer, is the publisher of the Washington Report on Middle East Affairs.

Le Jourdain

Section française du Star

C'est la rentrée!

Deuxième semestre, c'est parti... A cette occasion le 'Jourdain' vous propose un numéro spécial. La toute nouvelle concurrence entre les universités publiques et privées est un des sujets majeurs de cette rentrée. Pour le Dr Ahmad S. Bashairah, directeur général au 'ministry of higher education', ces deux secteurs sont complémentaires (P 10). Dr Suleiman Arabiyat, vice-président de l'université de Jordanie demande un 'contrôle permanent' de ces institutions (P 11). Pendant ce temps, le privé prend de l'ampleur. Visite guidée de l'université Philadelphia (P 11). Autre question: le développement du français dans un pays arabe et anglophone (P 10). Un dossier réalisé par Suleiman Sweiss, Michel Armand, et Francis Mazoyer

Le Français, valeur en hausse

"BONJOUR... PAPA... maman". Tout commence dès le plus jeune âge. L'école française d'Amman vient d'ouvrir une classe pour moutards de deux ans. "Cela fonctionne comme une crèche, affirme le directeur, Bernard Mahoux, l'avantage, c'est qu'au bout d'un an l'enfant parle déjà français". Le vocabulaire est limité. Mais les premiers liens avec la langue sont déjà noués. Cette expérience est une nouvelle corde à l'arc de l'école française, déjà sur la voie du succès. Malgré la parenthèse de la guerre du Golfe, les inscriptions suivent une courbe ascendante: 115 élèves en 1987, 160 pour 1992. Autre chiffre intéressant, seulement 40% des enfants appartiennent à la communauté française. Les autres, revendiquent 17 nationalités différentes. Le français est une langue internationale. Et ce pour trois raisons, affirme Bernard Mahoux: "Ceux qui voyagent choisissent les écoles françaises ou américaines, car ce sont les réseaux les plus répandus dans le monde. Ensuite, la pédagogie française est plus humaniste, elle demande plus de connaissances. Enfin, il faut bien le dire, certains envoient leurs enfants à l'école française par snobisme, tout simplement parce que ça fait chic".

Business en Français

Gérard Martinez, directeur des cours au Centre culturel Français, se frotte les mains. Chiffres à l'appui. Le CCF entame son deuxième trimestre florissant

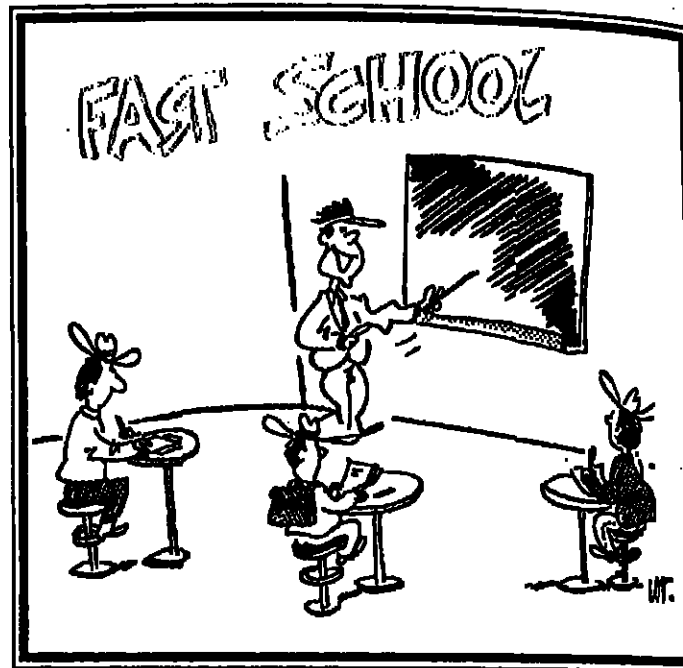


Premiers pas à l'école française

consécutif: 660 inscriptions pour le précédent; 650 pour les trois mois à venir. Il faut fouiller dans les statistiques du début 89 pour trouver à nouveau de tels résultats. Pourquoi cet engouement? Réponse de Gérard Martinez: "L'important, c'est que nous avons de plus en plus de cadres et de professions libérales, notre public se 'masculinise' (57%), avant il était d'avantage composé de femmes oisives". Il ajoute: "Le Français est désormais considéré comme une langue utilitaire, comme un plus dans un C.V. C'est une langue dont on se sert dans le business. Beaucoup de nos étudiants ont été employés dans des hôtels ou dans des entreprises. De plus, certains diplômes que nous proposons sont reconnus sur le plan international. C'est important pour ceux qui veulent émigrer..." Dans les universités jordaniennes, le français est également sur la pente ascendante. Au Yarmouk, à Irbid, environ 500 étudiants sont inscrits dans les différentes filières. 325 en "majeure", 30 en "mineure", et environ 150 choisissent le français en "valeur optionnelle". 60 % choisissent de s'inscrire en français. L'explication est simple, affirme Hussein Rehal, directeur du département des langues modernes, il n'y a plus

de débouchés en anglais, cette langue représente donc un atout supplémentaire. Résultat: chaque année, au Yarmouk, une centaine d'étudiants supplémentaires choisissent le Français. A l'université de Jordanie, les classes de français regroupent un peu moins de 400 élèves. Section la plus prestigieuse: la majeure inaugurée lors de la dernière rentrée d'octobre. Au deuxième semestre, cette section va compter 11 étudiants. "On choisit vraiment les meilleurs, cela vaut mieux que de sacrifier le niveau" explique Ahmad Wadi, professeur de français. Les heureux élus partent en stage d'été en France ("linguistique" ou "connaissance du pays"). "Peut-être un jour pourrions nous organiser des échanges avec l'hexagone" ajoute-t-il. Seul regret du prof: "Le français progresse à l'université, mais il connaît des difficultés en amont dans les écoles publiques, nous avons beaucoup d'étudiants qui viennent du privé". Réponse officielle de Chelchad Suleiman, responsable du français au ministère de l'éducation: "Nous avons un projet concernant l'enseignement du Français à partir de la septième. Il sera décliné courant février".

Michel Armand



ITV

Dr Ahmed S. Bashairah: 'Le privé et le public sont complémentaires'

Le point de vue officiel. Le 'Jourdain' a interrogé le directeur général du 'ministry of higher education'

Le Jourdain: Est-il de plus en plus difficile de rentrer à l'université?
Dr Ahmed S. Bashairah: "Tous les étudiants qui fournissent les diplômes demandés ont l'opportunité d'accéder à l'université, quelle soit publique ou privée. Chacun peut avoir sa chance. Mais il est vrai que nous avons un nombre limité de places. Alors il faut sélectionner les étudiants. Dans certaines sections spécialisées, comme la pharmacie ou la médecine, nous ne pouvons accepter tout le monde. Pour ceux qui sont refusés, ils doivent se rabattre sur les 'Collèges de communauté' (filiales courtes), ou sur le privé. L'étudiant doit accepter ce qu'on lui propose. Il doit être réaliste".
L.J: Vous suggérez aux exclus de s'inscrire dans les universités privées. Dispensent-elles un enseignement correct?

A.S.B: "La plupart proposent des formations spécialisées. Ces universités représentent une chance supplémentaire pour l'éducation jordanienne. Mais aussi pour les étudiants. Avec leur arrivée, le nombre de places a augmenté. Je crois que le privé et le public sont réellement complémentaires".
L.J: Sont-elles contrôlées?

A.S.B: "Ces universités obéissent aux normes fixées par le 'bureau de la haute éducation'. C'est lui qui donne ou refuse la licence, c'est-à-dire le permis d'enseigner. Les experts vérifient les bâtiments, la librairie, le niveau des professeurs. Par la suite, d'autres contrôles sont organisés. Ce n'est pas seulement une fois".
L.J: Les prix aussi?
A.S.B: "Pas pour le moment, mais cela peut venir. Les universités privées sont effectivement chères, mais cela dépend de leur nature. C'est normal. Mais si vous calculez combien ça coûte de suivre des études à l'étranger, le tarif des privées n'est pas si exorbitant".
L.J: Les études dans le privé sont-elles plus pratiques et plus proches des réalités?

A.S.B: "Personne ne peut dire ça pour le moment. Un étudiant diplômé en informatique doit avoir de la théorie et de la pratique. C'est pareil dans le privé et dans le public. Les universités privées sont-elles plus compétitives. Personne ne peut le dire maintenant. Elles viennent juste d'être créées".

Propos recueillis par F.M.

A VOIR...

■ NUIT DU CINEMA - C'est la deuxième organisée par le Centre culturel français. Jeudi 30 janvier, à 20h00, "Une affaire de femme" (1988), un film de Claude Chabrol, avec Isabelle Huppert. Le thème: en 1940, une jeune mère se révolte contre une société dont elle veut briser les tabous. Dans la foulée, à 23h30, "Le dossier 51" (1978), un film de Michel Deville, avec Roger Planchon et Anne Prucnal, d'après le roman de Gilles Ferrault. Un service de renseignements tente, par tous les moyens, de manœuvrer un haut fonctionnaire.

■ PEINTURES D'ENFANTS - Mardi 4 février à 18 h, au CCF, vernissage de l'exposition "peintures d'enfants", de l'école maternelle française d'Amman.

Le public...

Dr Suleiman Arabiyat: 'Réduisons le nombre des filières courtes'

Les coulisses de la rentrée avec le vice-président de l'université jordanienne. Interview



permanent du niveau de ces universités.

L.J: Que pensez-vous des règlements adoptés récemment qui prévoient le "pontage" entre les "collèges de communauté" (filières courtes et techniques, après le bac) et les universités?

S.A: "Je ne ressens pas le besoin de ce "pontage". Cette opération (NDLR: celle-ci est évoquée depuis 1986), ne devrait pas englober toutes les spécialisations. Elle devrait se limiter à celles dont la société a besoin.

Ces dernières années, on a fait beaucoup de promotion pour ces "collèges". Ces derniers sont à l'origine de l'aggravation du problème du chômage parmi les jeunes.

Au départ, l'idée était de fournir des cadres moyens. Tenter de les reconvenir en universitaires dépasse l'objectif fixé. A mon avis, il faut supprimer un grand nombre de ces collèges, et introduire de nouvelles spécialisations dans le domaine technologique.

Enfin, je crois que ce "pontage" va se heurter à de grosses difficultés. Les administrations des universités vont traîner des deux pieds".

Propos recueillis par Suleiman Sweiss.

Le privé...

Philadelphia, fac à l'américaine

Des bâtiments, un enseignement et une équipe modernes. Quand le privé tente d'obtenir sa part du gâteau

PHILADELPHIA, VÉRITABLE haut perché, en face du manège d'Ajloun, est en train de prendre de la hauteur. Cette université privée est un modèle en Jordanie et peut-être dans tout le monde arabe. Elle a été créée par un étudiant américain, Sh. Touq. Le message est simple: l'éducation doit donner une impulsion à la société naissante, qui a vu le jour en 1991.

Les universités n'ont pas une place pour tout le monde. Les habitants du Golfe ne veulent pas faire inscrire leurs enfants dans le privé. Philadelphia est une exception. C'est original, je crois que nous sommes la seule université de tout le monde arabe à appliquer ce système" affirme Muhayieddeen Sh. Touq. Passage de l'autre côté de la barrière: "Les examinateurs nous demandent pourquoi nous voulons rentrer dans l'université, notre opinion à son égard, quelles sont les études que nous voulons suivre, sans oublier des questions plus personnelles."

L'étudiant vend la machine: "On s'intéresse aussi à notre situation financière". Philadelphia est une université privée. Donc chère. Une année complète en sciences coûte 2.300 Jordan Dinars. La même période en



Philadelphia: pallier les carences du système traditionnel

pharmacie, 2.700 J.D. "Cette université est plus chère que n'importe quelle autre" affirme Mouna, étudiante. Elle ajoute: "Je n'ai pas eu le choix, je voulais suivre des études pour devenir ingénieur en informatique, mais il n'y en avait pas à l'université de Jordanie. Puis, juste après mon inscription, ils ont créé une section...". Pas de chance.

L'université comporte tout de même bon nombre d'avantages pour l'étudiant. Le principal: une palette d'études très variée. Pour simplifier, Philadelphia est divisée en deux départements

principaux, le collège "Engineering Science and Pharmacy" (Deux tiers des élèves), et le collège "Management, Art and Law" (Un tiers des élèves). Nombre de cours sont en anglais. "Nous sommes plus pratiques que les autres, nos étudiants seront sûrs de trouver un travail". Philadelphia regarde vers l'avenir. Ses dirigeants, dont Leila Sharaf, membre du parlement, multiplient les contacts avec les ambassades jordaniennes à l'étranger. Ils travaillent sur une brochure. Avec le nombre d'étudiants, le budget (un million quatre cent mille J.D. pour les neuf premiers mois) devrait rapidement augmenter. Ainsi que la renommée de l'université.

Francis Mazoyer

L'EDITO

de Suleiman Sweiss

Facs: la révision!

A LA fin de l'année 92, l'université de Jordanie fêtera son trentième anniversaire. Le temps de dresser le bilan.

D'abord, l'accès à l'université devient de plus en plus difficile. Les enfants des classes populaires restent souvent sur la touche. Tout est évidemment plus aisé pour la "bourgeoisie".

Ces disparités sont essentiellement dues aux tarifs exorbitants. Les études d'histoire ou de médecine en Jordanie coûtent aussi cher qu'en France.

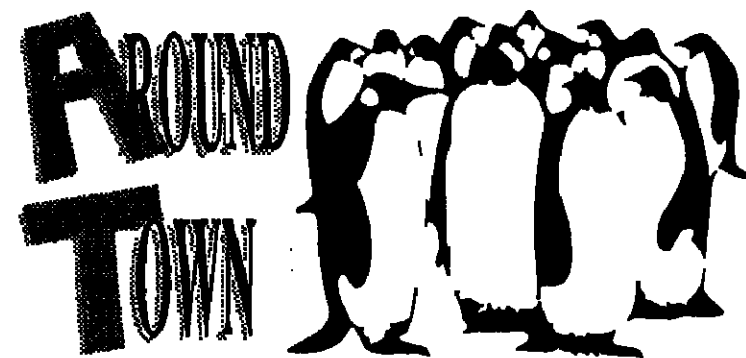
Les exigences académiques ne sont pas respectées lorsqu'il s'agit de trouver des places pour les "pistonnés". Quant aux universités privées, toutes récentes, certes elles acceptent des étudiants aux moyennes laissant à désirer. Mais les frais d'inscription dépassent la limite du raisonnable.

Ensuite, l'éducation a peu de liens avec les besoins de la société jordanienne, en particulier avec le développement. Pour construire le complexe de la "Housing Bank", nous n'avons pas fait appel à des ingénieurs jordaniens ou à une compagnie locale. Mais à des Coréens! Pour étudier le problème de la pollution des eaux dans la vallée du Jourdain, on fait appel à des experts britanniques. A quoi bon multiplier les exemples. Ils sont connus de tous.

Nos universités sont presque des copies conformes de l'exemple américain. La preuve: certaines matières, comme la médecine ou les sciences sont enseignées en anglais. C'est faire fi de la loi, qui oblige les universités à "ambaiser" toutes les matières. Bref, nous avons besoin d'un enseignement national. Et qui n'imité pas. Mais attention! Une national ne signifie pas être renfermé sur soi-même.

Nous consommons le savoir, mais nous ne le produisons pas. Disons le carrément: nous avons très peu de savants. De plus, le lien entre l'enseignement et ses applications concrètes sur le terrain est faible. Peut-être parce qu'on ne s'intéresse pas suffisamment au développement de la personnalité des étudiants. Ces derniers apprennent à apprendre par cœur. Mais pas à réfléchir d'une façon sérieuse et indépendante. Résultat: les établissements de l'enseignement supérieur sont des "usines" à fabriquer des chômeurs!

Le niveau a beaucoup baissé ces dernières années. Les universités et leurs sous-produits commerciaux ont contribué à aggraver la situation. D'urgence nous avons besoin d'une révision globale du système universitaire.



Congratulations!!
Graduations, appointments, engagements, weddings, newborns, promotions, special awards, excellent achievements.....
Drop us a line and send a photo...we will run it free of charge in The Star's People and Events page.

● The Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Dr Tayseer Abdul Jaber travelled to the United Arab Emirates and Oman last Sunday on a trip to enhance cooperation between ESCWA and its country-members. His first stop was in Abu Dhabi where he attended a three-day seminar, on Monday 27 January, entitled "Inter-Arab and Foreign Trade Policies" organized by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

Dr Abdul Jaber is expected to make another visit to Oman on 1 April in response to an official invitation extended by the government. During his visit, Dr Abdul Jaber will discuss cooperation between Oman and ESCWA regarding a development program to be carried out in Oman.

● A two-day seminar was held last Saturday at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel by the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) in cooperation with the MBTTO group of companies. The topic of the seminar was "Brackish/Seawater Desalination and Recycling of Used Water", at which the opening speeches were delivered by Minister of Water and Irrigation Mr Samir Kassar, Secretary General of HCST Dr Abdullah Toukan and Chairman of the MBTTO group Mr Farouq Ghan-dour.



● A grand celebration was held at the Marriott Hotel in Amman last Sunday marking ten years of success. Over 1,500 people attended the celebration. They represented companies, diplomatic missions and clients.

A huge cake, in the shape of the Marriott building was prepared especially for the event and drinks and food were served in the ballroom. The management, represented by hotel manager Mr Francis Keenan and the vice-president of Marriott hotels in the Middle East Mr Bosschart, expressed their happiness over the event and hoped for more success in the future.

TO group Mr Farouq Ghan-dour.

Five papers were discussed during the seminar, three of which were given on Saturday, including "Reverse Osmosis, Theory and Cost", presented by Mr Abdul Kareem Smaili, "Specialty Chemicals" by Mr Eugene Aram, and "Application of Reverse Osmosis Technology for Water Reclamation" by Mr George Hayek.

The other two lectures, given on Sunday, included "Saving 40 per cent of Domestic Water Consumption" by Dr Maan Dibouni and "Chlorination Technology for Supplies of Safe Water" by Mr Peter Koester.

● The Orthodox Club and Educational Society in Amman will receive the Eastern Mennonite College study-tour group, arriving in Amman on Friday 31 January. They will stay for three days, during which they will attend seminars and lectures, meet with church leaders and visit archaeological sites such as Petra and Jerash.

The group will comprise 33 people: 15 women and 16 men. The sponsors are Mr Calvin, who is a professor of theology, and Marie Shenk. During their visit, the group hopes to learn about the activities of the Educational Society in general and the activities undertaken during the Gulf War.

The Eastern Mennonite College is located in Harrisonburg, VA, USA. It is one of several Mennonite colleges in the United States who believe that gaining some practical international experience is an important part of the formal educational process so as to gain a better understanding of people and places.

It is from this belief that this study-tour originates, and virtually all students study-travel outside the United States as part of their undergraduate education. During their month-long study-tour, the group visited Egypt and will visit Jordan and the West Bank.

● Last month, the British Council displayed the entries for their Amateur Photography Competition in a prize-giving exhibition. The winners were Jacqueline

Indian phenomenon



Handy fingers

The more, the merrier

AN ECCENTRIC hereditary phenomenon has marked five generations of a village in the southwestern part of India — residents have six fingers in each hand.

One story, which sounds more like a Greek myth, put forward by village people to explain this strange occurrence is recounted by the natives of Gujrat, a village in India, while others offer different interpretations.

According to them, the phenomenon began five generations ago when an Indian couple were unable to bear children. The couple, seeking help, invoke Shamunda Mataji, the god of fertility, answered their prayers and gave them a six-fingered child. The couple, thrilled to have been given a child, despite its 12 fingers, proceeded to enlarge their family until the whole village was populated by 12-fingered people. ■



Agenda

Films

■ The American Cultural Center presents tonight the film "Fantasia" at 7 pm, a Walt Disney 1940 cartoon interpretation of a classical music concert concluded by Leopold Stokowski of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

A special matinee showing for children will be at 3 pm, in addition to the regular showing.

■ The British Council presents the film "A taste of honey" on Saturday night and Sunday morning 2 and 3 February, respectively, at 7 pm.

The film is about Jo, who feels needed, cared for and loved for the first time in her life.

■ The French Cultural Center presents tonight the film "Une affaire de femme" at 8 pm. The film is about an angry mother who defies society and commits taboos.

Vandervelde for the pictures for People category, Haltham Jewell for the Best in Competition, Rina Khouri and Osama Al Natour for Glimpses of Jordan and finally Rand Hanoun and Lilian Khalaf for the Under 16 category.

● Minister of Youth Dr Saleh Irsheldat opened last Monday the art exhibition of artist Marwan Al Allan at the Baladna Art Gallery. On display were 118 paintings depicting issues of humanity in general and those of

Lectures

■ The British Council will be hosting Mr Anwar Akrouh, director of the library at Yarmouk University and the president of the Jordan Libraries Association, who will lecture in Amman "Jordan Libraries Association" on 5 February at 6 pm.

Exhibitions

■ At Alla Art Gallery, Minister of Youth Dr Saleh Irsheldat will open the art exhibition of the Iraqi artist Mahmoud Al Obaidi tonight at 5:30 pm. The exhibition will run until 8 February.

Sight-seeing

■ Friends of Archaeology tomorrow Friday will conduct tour to the Roman Nymphaeum (downtown), Odeon (next to the Roman theatre) and the Archaeological Museum and the National Heritage Museum at the University of Jordan.

Departure will be from Amra Hotel parking lot at 9 am in private cars.

women's equality in particular. Al Allan used different media in his paintings to illustrate ideas including a brush, a knife and a knife. Attending were members of the ministry staff, number of Jordanian artists and invited guests.

Subscribe & Enjoy The Star

Letter to CBS

Continued from page 9

that if you don't go along with the "team," right or wrong, you're a "team player." This mentality is so prevalent and so ingrained in all aspects of our society that anyone who deviates from it is treated with ridicule and condemnation.

King Hussein is guilty of anything in the Gulf War, he is guilty of the courage to accept the consequences of refusing to go along with a coalition set on destruction, in favor of a peaceful solution with no one, and that, Mr Croft, is what we, as a nation, can't accept; not from King Hussein, much less anyone else who stands up to the U.S.

I give you credit for your attempt to give substance to Mr. Croft's charges: first with Mr Kroll, and later through the documentation of an arms manufacturer whose records show millions of dollars in commissions controlled by Jordanian middlemen "in close contact with Jordan's Royal household." However, the mere fact that the inference you and Mr Chalabi attempt to make about the program with regard to King Hussein's involvement, "King Hussein, as you stated, about his 'relationship to Saddam Hussein,' is extremely misleading. His response only reflects his support for the purpose of the interview, and not, as you stated, your audience to believe, in response to, nor in avoidance of Chalabi's charges.

Whether an issue or question is one thing, but to present them as they are, beyond a reasonable doubt, and without solid proof, is quite different. Not even in a court of law would your arguments hold up. This is the arms manufacturer, the middlemen, and the businessmen who support Mr Chalabi's allegations and your "evidence"? Are you presenting this all on blind faith and without question?

Well, if you are seeking motivations, why not go one step further and investigate Mr Chalabi's true motivation behind his accusations. And, why not investigate the investigator, Mr Kroll, who you rely on to establish Mr Chalabi's credibility, but, who is also employed by the Kuwaiti government. Investigate their motivations, whether they are for personal or profitable, in what appears to be an attempt to discredit King Hussein.

I've always looked to 60 Minutes for what I once believed was accurate and investigative reporting, based on facts, not hearsay. When not only done a great injustice to Jordan and Jordan's King Hussein, but have, in the process, damaged the credibility of 60 Minutes. I never view another 60 Minutes piece without questioning its motivations, and will always wonder how a reputable program like 60 Minutes can be in a growing trend in the media to sacrifice reliable, factual information in favor of ratings and sensationalism. ■

Reta Nashkko,
US citizen,
New York, USA.

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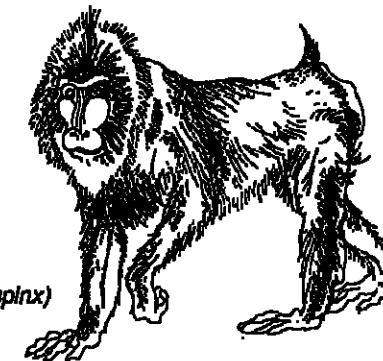
TOP VIDEO RENTALS

1. Backdraft, Kurt Russell, Robert De Niro, MCA/Universal Home Video (R-1991)
2. Class Action, Gene Hackman, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, FoxVideo (R-1991)
3. The Silence of the Lambs, Jodie Foster, Anthony Hopkins, Orion Home Video (R-1991)
4. Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, Kevin Costner, Warner Home Video (PG-13-1991)
5. Soapdish, Sally Field, Kevin Kline, Paramount Home Video (PG-13-1991)
6. Fantasia, Animated, Disney Home Video (G-1940)
7. What About Bob?, Bill Murray, Richard Dreyfuss, Touchstone Home Video (PG-1991)
8. FX2: The Deadly Deception, Bryan Brown, Brian Dennehy, Orion Home Video (PG-13-1991)
9. Mortal Thoughts, Demi Moore, Bruce Willis, Columbia TriStar Home Video (R-1991)

TOP POP SINGLES

1. Black or White, Michael Jackson, Epic
2. All 4 Love, Color Me Badd, Giant
3. When a Man Loves a Woman, Michael Bolton, Columbia
4. It's So Hard to Say Goodbye to Yesterday, Boyz II Men, Tommy Boy
5. Got Adrift on Memory Bliss, P.M. Dawn, Gee Street
6. Blowing Kisses in the Wind, Paula Abdul, Captive
7. Can't Let Go, Mariah Carey, Columbia
8. 2 Legit 2 Quit, Hammer, Capitol
9. Finally, CeCe Peniston, A&M

Creature feature



Mandrill
(Mandrillus sphinx)

Home: Africa: forest of Cameroon, Gabon

Habits: Lives in troops of 20 to 50 animals, led and protected by one or more old males. Eats nuts, fruit, leaves, insects and other small animals. Sleeps in trees.

Claim to fame: Male (shown above) has long snout marked with deep, often colorful, ridges. Female has less pronounced ridges and facial coloration, and is only about half as big

SOURCE: Detroit Free Press, "Macmillan Illustrated Animal Encyclopedia," Research by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN

VIDEOVIEW

By Jay Bobbin

(Ratings for each film begin with an "asterisk" rating — one meaning "poor," four meaning "excellent" — followed by the Motion Picture Association of America rating, and then by a family-viewing guide, the key for which appears below.)

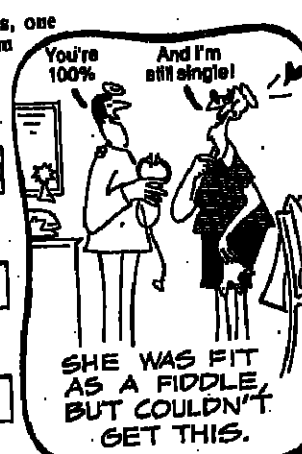
STARTING THIS WEEK: "THELMA AND LOUISE" (MGM/UA, \$94.99): One of last summer's most-discussed films, director Ridley Scott's vivid "road movie" casts Susan Sarandon and Geena Davis as traveling companions with good reasons to leave their respective pasts behind ... but that doesn't mean those pasts won't try to follow them, resulting in a controversial outcome. Harvey Keitel and Brad Pitt also are featured. *** (R: AS, P, V)

"DYING YOUNG" (Fox, \$94.98): Julia Roberts reunited with "Flatliners" director Joel Schumacher for this romantic, but gloomy drama about a wealthy and seriously ill young man (Campbell Scott) who falls for his new private nurse (Roberts) ... and vice versa, much to her emotional confusion. Scott's mother, the late Colleen Dewhurst, and David ("Falcon Crest") Selby also appear. ** (R: AS, P)

"BILL & TED'S BOGUS JOURNEY" (Orion, \$92.98): Keanu Reeves and Alex Winter return as the "totally excellent dudes" whose offbeat manner of speech tends to provide lots of humor. That certainly is handy when they're brought face-to-face with Satan ("Die Hard 2s" William Sadler), while lifelike robots take their places in the real world. Comedian George Carlin also shows up. *** (PG: AS, P, V)

Unscramble these four words, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KLUF E
HA I K K
ALFF EB
DUNBO A

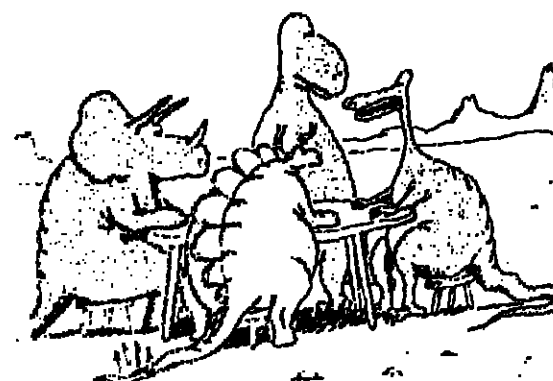


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Answer: SHE WAS FIT AS A FIDDLE, BUT COULDN'T GET THIS. (Puzzle by NANCY ROSS-FLANIGAN)

Two new
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from the
Far Side
collection



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&
Wiener Dog Art
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The Star's TV GUIDE

Programs on
Jordan
Television
from
2-7
February

ENGLISH PROGRAMS

SATURDAY

8:30 — America's Funniest Home Videos.
9:00 — Encounter.
9:30 — For the Sake of Children.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — "Switched at Birth": A drama based on the true story of the two Florida girls who somehow were switched at a hospital nursery and raised for a decade by the wrong biological parents.



Switched at Birth on Saturday at 10:20

SUNDAY

8:30 — Empty Nest: Barbara finds a new boyfriend and she introduces him to her dad, but unfortunately, she soon finds out that he is going out with another girl.
9:10 — Equinox. "The winning streak": This program sheds light on the issue of how people become athletes, with emphasis on the East German's approach.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — Continuation of Switched at Birth drama series.

MONDAY

8:30 — Hey Dad: Martin's secretary, Betty, never runs out of ideas to force her employer to give her a raise.
9:10 — Capital City: Leonard asks one of his employees to follow up on a client's wish to liquidate his Dutch gilder assets, but the transaction does not go through because of a colleague's fault.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — The Elites: The team goes to the South Pacific to rescue a threatened island. Later, they work on stopping a leaking oil tanker and finally they prevent a fight between mill owners and demonstrators, who want to preserve nature.

TUESDAY

8:30 — Evening Shade: The coach becomes a Western movie star.
9:10 — Colour in the Creek: Alec and Robbie, hypnotized by Mr. Ekman, snap out of it and quickly leave the magic place with a strong belief in what they saw and experienced.
10:00 — News in English.
10:20 — G.B.H. "Only Here on a Message": Michael Murray is popular, powerful, and corrupt. He is the local politician who knows what it's like to be hated.

WEDNESDAY

8:30 — Teech: Find out who the winner is in the elections for president.

FRENCH PROGRAMS

SAMEDI

6:00 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — La famille Fontaine.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — A documentary program.

DOMINIQUE

5:30 — Les badaboks. A puppet show for children.
5:45 — Géoscope. A documentary program.
6:10 — L'école des fans. A program in which children sing the songs of their favourite singers.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Carnet de notes. A classical music program.

LUNDI

6:00 — Le monde sous marin de Jacques-Yves Cousteau. A documentary program about life in the seas.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — The Weekly Sports Magazine.

MARDI

6:00 — Bouli. A cartoon series for children.
6:15 — Les tortues Ninja. A cartoon series for children.
6:30 — Marc et Sophie. A series about two doctors.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Variétés. A selection of French songs.

MERCREDI

6:00 — Le monde est à vous. A variety program with Jacques Martin.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Azimuts. A documentary program.

JEUDI

6:00 — L'ionmap. A documentary program.
6:30 — Maguy. A comedy series about a woman named Maguy and her husband.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — International circus.

VENREDI

5:30 — Le Gorille.
7:00 — News in French.
7:15 — Fusions. A documentary program on science.

JEANE DIXON'S Your Horoscope



ARIES (21 March - 19 April): Not a good week for rushing into romantic or business commitment. Keep your personal affairs private. Listen and learn at work. Gift-giving puts you in the honour roll.

TAURUS (20 April - 20 May): Entering into a financial agreement could be like playing with fire! Go slow. You need to be very careful where romance is concerned. A child shares a special moment with you.

GEMINI (21 May - 20 June): You will probably accomplish more if you work on deadline. Postpone a business lunch to complete a "top priority" project. Mate may want to go out this weekend. Relax at home instead.

CANCER (21 June - 22 July): Take charge of a financial or employment matter. A task that sounds difficult will be a breeze! Generosity puts you in favour with influential people. Return phone calls promptly.

LEO (23 July - 22 August): Self-control is the name of the game, especially when dealing with your mate. Learn to delegate more authority. A social affair could lead to new business contacts. Good financial news is likely.

VIRGO (23 August - 22 September): A great week for business and finance. Avoid asking too many favours of influential people. Bring your bank records up-to-date. You decide to visit old friends. Relax and enjoy yourself.

LIBRA (23 September - 22 October): Progress may not come easily this week. The emphasis is on not shaking the foundations; do what you can without making waves. Keeping a low profile helps you observe and learn. Splurge this week!

SCORPIO (23 October - 21 November): Travel enjoys highly favourable influences. Trust your powers of observation. Prominent people will be impressed by your innovative thinking. Make inquiries. You will get fascinating answers.

SAGITTARIUS (22 November - 21 December): You could be drawn into a web of deception if you are not careful. Do your own research behind the scenes. A new career venture hits a snag — hold back. Distant contacts prove fortuitous.

CAPRICORN (22 December - 19 January): Glad tidings and good fortune are part of the picture! Attention to detail pays off in meaningful ways. Devote more time to domestic affairs. You have access to the people who wield power!

AQUARIUS (20 January - 18 February): Pay more attention to what people behind the scenes are telling you. Use any inside information you obtain judiciously. Do not neglect loved ones when travelling; call home on a regular basis.

PISCES (19 February - 20 March): Improve your technological skills. A fax machine could save you both time and money. A telephone call from an old school friend proves enlightening. Remember to repay favours as soon as possible.

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN are a lot more complex than they appear on the surface. Although wildly impatient with slow movers and thinkers, they often have trouble making decisions. They will be happiest in business for themselves, far away from negative or dictatorial people.

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Would You Believe?

Hawaii requires new-comers to place their dogs and cats in a 120-day quarantine if they're arriving from any place that has rabies cases. Officials say Hawaii is the only rabies-free state in the nation.

Hikers in Austrian mountains recently found the body of a man who lived 4,000 years ago.

Drinking milk actually irritates an ulcer, it doesn't help it.

A new federal study found that more than half of the United States' teenagers drink alcohol. More than a third said they'd had more than five drinks on at least one occasion.

The rock group Duran Duran took its name from a character in the 1988 Jane Fonda film called "Barbarella."

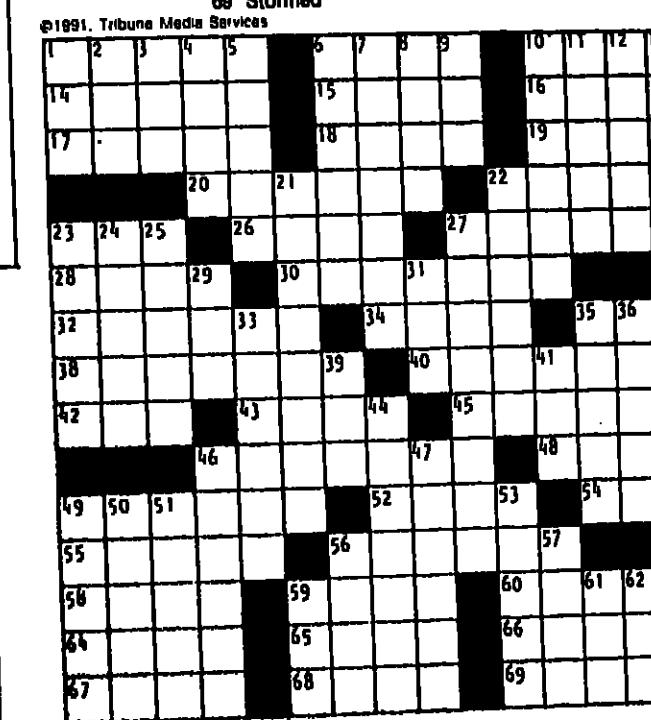
Solution



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

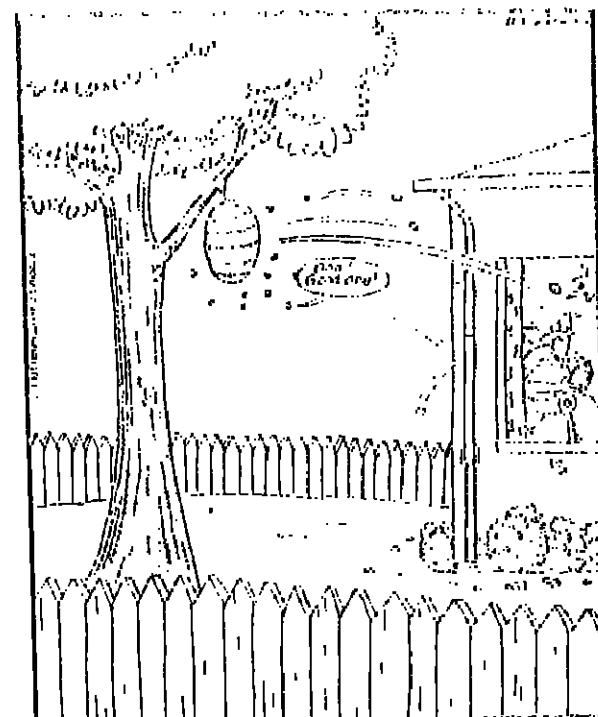
ACROSS
1 Sticks in the mud
6 Folio term of address
10 Canvas
14 Dingbat
15 River in Spain
16 Volinity
17 Flashy headaddress
18 German denial
19 Grass areas
20 Artificial
22 Violent gust
23 Baby's food shield
26 Pipe
27 Soars
28 Not care —
30 Glib at
32 Obie
34 Achson or Ruak
35 Take to court

DOWN
1 Assembled
2 Amin letters
3 Intel
4 To be: Fr. fragment
5 Pottery
6 Threat
7 Gave a hand to
8 Tucson's state: abbr.
9 My Fr.
10 Colorless
11 Nymph, in Greek
12 Certain contract
13 Endures
21 Source of light and heat
22 Certain mineral
23 Elemental
24 Isfahan man
25 Opera voice
27 Cheer
28 Greek letter
31 Goddess: Lat.
33 Wading birds
35 Organization
36 Accepted practice
37 German industrial center
38 Weight
41 Cheer
44 Mexican dish
46 Equivocate
47 Aristy
49 Hogties
50 Slip by
51 Ponderous
53 Passover event
58 Recognition
59 Pro
60 Vessel
61 Stein
62 Verse
63 Sparks or Rorem

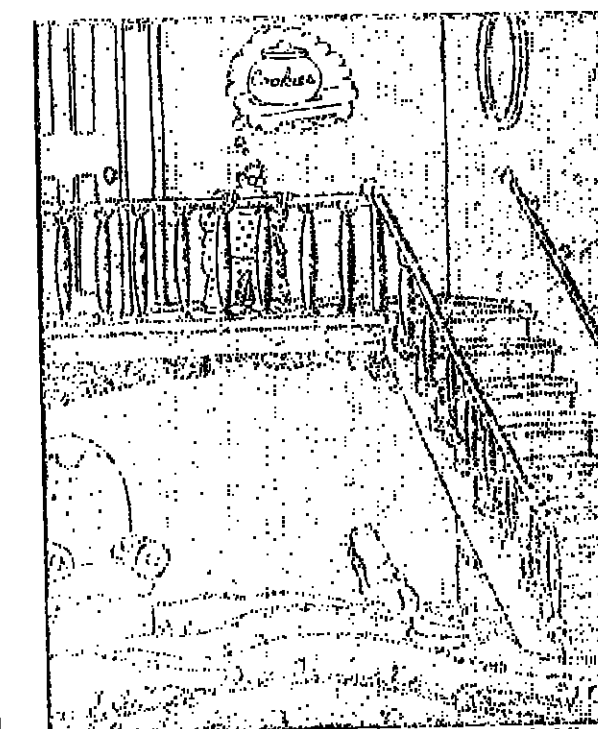


THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



For many weeks, the two species had lived in mutual tolerance of one another. And then, without provocation, the hornets began throwing rocks at Ned's house.



The nightly cries of Todd's stomach vs. Todd's imagination



Stumpy didn't know how he got in this situation, but with the whole town watching, he knew he'd have to play it out.

JOE

Conventions addicts

MANY PLAYERS keep on accusing a certain group of players of being convention addicts or slaves to the system and even of replacing common sense with rigid rules. My answer is brief and supported with examples:

Conventions are the same as any other tools, you have to perfect them, otherwise they work against you, and you should not abuse them, they will serve you if you use them the proper way.

Following own system is a must for partnership preservation and discipline is an important factor, treatments and judgements are a result of the concluded inferences.

Common sense does not contradict with the system's rules, actually it supports it and integrates with it to form a comprehensive style decision on both of them.

Common sense does not contradict with the system's rules, actually it supports it and integrates with it to form a comprehensive style decision on both of them.

Children Fund tournament, but they were first over the NS field, they bid the hand counting on their convention arsenal:

- (1) Negative double, seven or more points and guarantees four cards of the unbid major (S).
- (2) Splinter, super fit in partner's suit, slam interest and singleton or void in the bid suit.
- (3) No first round control outside spades.
- (4) Cue bid and still interested in slam.
- (5) Denying second round control in the red suits.
- (6) Now I know you should have the spade Ace, otherwise where are your points?

A perfect marriage of a solid system and enlightened common sense.

My other example comes from the same event:

♠ 98
♥ AT42
♦ AQ4
♣ AK85

WEST
IN
4♠
5♠

East plays Lebensohl convention, a complete set of bids that almost cover any hand after 1N opening and a two level intervention from the direct position.

According to the convention mechanism, 3N shows game values, no stopper in the opponent suit and no four cards of the unbid major (S). East players with sensible common sense, judged the hand as a game forcing one and treated it accordingly to score a deserved top.